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Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 67/205, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution. The report covers the period since the issuance of the previous report (A/67/313), from August 2012 to August 2014. It describes a range of activities undertaken at the national and regional levels to advance the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea as well as the possible legal and financial implications of designating the Caribbean Sea a special area within the context of sustainable development. Inputs from member States, United Nations entities and relevant regional organizations have been incorporated. A report of the Association of Caribbean States on progress made in the implementation of the resolution is contained in the annex.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 67/205 entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations", the General Assembly recognized that the Caribbean Sea was an area of unique biodiversity and a highly fragile ecosystem. The Assembly called upon the United Nations system and the international community to assist, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation and recognized the work required of relevant regional and international development partners towards promoting the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, including through the consideration of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development.

2. For consideration at its sixty-ninth session, the General Assembly invited the Association of Caribbean States to submit to the Secretary-General a report on the progress made in the implementation of resolution 67/205 and also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it on the implementation of the same resolution, including a section on the possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to relevant international law.

3. The present report covers the period since the issuance of the previous report (A/67/313), from August 2012 to August 2014. It is based on inputs from the United Nations system, relevant regional organizations and Member States.[1] The report of the Association of Caribbean States is contained in the annex to the report.

II. Possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development

4. By calling for designation as a "special area within the context of sustainable development", Caribbean Member States are seeking to establish a new concept, and the legal and financial implications have not been elaborated to date. Caribbean Member States first made the call at a 1997 Caribbean ministerial meeting on the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and since then, the international community has continued to consider the particular characteristics of the Caribbean Sea that might justify this type of designation. But a full analysis of the possible effects of this new designation has not yet taken place.

[1] Inputs were received from the following Member States and bodies and organizations of the United Nations system: Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Association of Caribbean States, Global Island Partnership, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, International Labour Organization, International Maritime Organization, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat.

5. There are other examples of "special areas", notably in the context of marine pollution. Article 211 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea establishes that States, acting through the competent international organization or general diplomatic conference, can set rules and standards to "prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from vessels". The Convention further states there are cases where these rules and standards are not adequate because of the "special circumstances" of a "particular, clearly defined area" within a State's exclusive economic zone. In those cases, "the adoption of special mandatory measures for the prevention of pollution from vessels" may be required.

6. For ship-borne pollution, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Convention) addresses marine pollution from operational or accidental causes and also contains the concept of "special areas". The MARPOL Convention includes six annexes that address pollution by oil; noxious liquid substances; harmful substances in packaged form; sewage; garbage; and air pollution. In the context of each annex, regions have been designated "special areas" and granted a higher level of protection than that given to other ocean areas.[2] The wider Caribbean region received the designation under annex V of the Convention, entitled "Prevention of pollution by garbage from ships", with entry into force in May 2011.

7. In resolution 61/197, the General Assembly took note of the creation of the Commission on the Caribbean Sea by the Association of Caribbean States. In subsequent relevant resolutions, most recently 67/205, the Assembly welcomed the work of the Commission, including the development of the concept of the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development, and invited the international community to support its efforts.

8. As is noted in the annex to the present report, the Association of Caribbean States has engaged a consultant to carry out a thorough analysis of the legal and financial implications of the aforementioned designation, and the results of the analysis, expected in the second half of 2014, will inform further consideration of the concept.

III. Activities undertaken at the national and regional levels

A. Marine pollution

9. The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region ("Cartagena Convention"), which entered into force in 1986 and has been ratified by 25 States Members of the United Nations to date, provides the legal framework for national and regional actions to protect and sustainably develop the Caribbean Sea. The Convention addresses pollution from ships, dumping, seabed activities, airborne sources, and land-based sources and activities.

10. The Protocol concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region entered into force in August 2010, and 11 countries

[2] To date no special areas have been named in the context of annex III, on harmful substances carried in packaged form.

have ratified it to date: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Dominican Republic, France, Grenada, Guyana, Panama, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and United States of America. The Caribbean Environment Programme has worked to promote the Protocol at the national and regional levels, developing and distributing information and awareness-raising materials, including promotional DVDs, brochures, public service announcements for television and radio, photo slide shows and animations, and a quarterly newsletter of its assessment and management of environmental pollution subprogramme for implementing the Protocol. In addition, the Programme is bolstering its web presence and social media efforts on the subject, creating a variety of social media materials, available through the its website, for children and adults.

11. Pesticides constitute a major source of land-based pollution, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has funded projects addressing the issue, including on reducing pesticide run-off to the Caribbean Sea, which was implemented in Colombia, Costa Rica and Nicaragua and ended in December 2011. A follow-up project on improved management of agrochemical lifecycles in Central America and the Caribbean will aim to expand the original focus to incorporate international waters and persistent organic pollutants. The GEF secretariat will consider that project, which has been endorsed by eight countries, for the period 2015-2016.

12. Other measures to address land-based pollution include a project undertaken by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)[3] on supporting the Eastern Caribbean States in improving land policies and management. The project, made possible by the Government of Australia, has been implemented jointly with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); the Global Land Tool Network; the Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management, University of West Indies; national land agencies and other national ministries; civil society organizations; and professional bodies. The objective is to formulate, adopt and implement comprehensive land policies, including to reduce land-based sources of pollution. The project was completed in July 2014 and assessment reports are forthcoming.

13. Wastewater management is a critical component of sustainable development, particularly in a fragile ecosystem like that of the Caribbean region. In that regard, the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association, an organization of national and regional experts in the field of wastewater management, has continued to provide useful support and partnership to the projects implemented in the region. The Inter-American Development Bank and the Caribbean Environment Programme carried out a project funded by GEF on testing a prototype Caribbean regional fund for wastewater management. The project aims to improve the capacity for wastewater management in countries of the wider Caribbean region through sustainable project financing, while also addressing constraints within existing legal, institutional, educational and policy frameworks for wastewater management. The project produced, among other outputs, a regional wastewater management policy template and toolkit, a video entitled "Caribbean wastewater report" and a regional baseline assessment study.

[3] The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States comprises six members (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) and three associate members (Virgin Islands, Anguilla and Montserrat). It operates under the Revised Treaty of Basseterre establishing the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Economic Union.

14. The Government of Jamaica and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) co-organized the second Global Conference on Land-Ocean Connections in Montego Bay, Jamaica, from 2 to 4 October 2013. The meeting, which gathered approximately 230 scientists, policymakers, civil society representative and other experts from 55 countries, addressed a range of topics, with particular attention given to the management of marine litter, wastewater and nutrients.

15. A multi-stakeholder process in the period 2013-2014 yielded an updated regional action Plan for marine litter management in the wider Caribbean region. The Caribbean Environment Programme and the Caribbean Youth Environment Network took the lead in the process and incorporated insights from the recently elaborated Honolulu Strategy, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and the Global Partnership on Waste Management.

16. In 2013, the Caribbean Environment Programme, with the assistance of the Institute of Marine Affairs and the UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities convened a meeting of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management-Caribbean Platform in Trinidad and Tobago. The regional meeting formed the basis for the launch of a Caribbean platform for nutrient management.

17. The Regional Activity Centre for Oil Spills, with the support of the subprogramme of the Caribbean Environment Programme on assessment and management of environmental pollution, led the efforts to secure and promote the designation of the Caribbean as a "special area" in the context of the MARPOL Convention annex addressing garbage pollution dumped at sea.

18. In respect of efforts to address ship-borne pollution, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), in partnership with the Regional Activity Center for Oil Spills, completed a study in 2012 on the feasibility of liquefied natural gas-fuelled short sea and coastal shipping in the wider Caribbean region. Following a competitive tender process, a contract was awarded in June 2013 for a pilot study on the potential use of liquefied natural gas as fuel for a fast passenger-ship service operating between the Port of Spain ferry terminal and Scarborough, Trinidad and Tobago. Using funds donated by the Government of Norway under the IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Partnership, the study looked at a "cradle-to-grave" project for the start-up of the passenger-ship service and provided guidance and encouragement for the consideration of other projects on similarly fuelled ship services in the wider Caribbean region.

B. Coastal and marine resources management

19. The large marine ecosystem of the Caribbean Sea is a complex and vital shared resource of the countries of the Caribbean region, and Governments and international and regional organizations have implemented a number of projects and programmes to safeguard it since 2012. The project on the sustainable management of the shared marine resources of the Caribbean large marine ecosystem and adjacent regions (2009-2014) is jointly managed by GEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Caribbean regional subsidiary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO-IOCARIBE). The Caribbean Environment Programme implemented a pilot subproject on the management and

conservation of reef biodiversity and reef fisheries. The subproject takes an ecosystem approach to conservation and aims to demonstrate the feasibility of maintaining the functional and structural integrity and biodiversity of targeted coral reef ecosystems while promoting economic and social benefits for local communities. The subproject was implemented in the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve, Colombia; Pedro Bank, Jamaica; and Montecristi National Park, Dominican Republic, with linkages to the transboundary site, Caracol Bay, in Haiti.

20. As part of the project, stakeholders developed a 10-year strategic action programme, which received broad political endorsement in 2013 by over 30 Ministers from more than 20 countries. The ministers called for international and regional support to implement the action programme, which advocates the full adoption of the ecosystem approach and the strengthening and consolidating of oceans-related regional, subregional and national organizations and institutions. To support the implementation of the action programme, GEF has approved the concept note for a follow-up five-year full-sized project, which is expected to commence in 2015.

21. With the rise of ecosystem-based approaches for marine resources management, Governments and regional organizations are using marine protected areas as one important aspect of their overall strategies. Marine protected areas are subject to varying degrees of protection, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has developed seven categories to classify protected areas, ranging from the designation "Strict nature reserve", under category Ia, to and "Protected area with sustainable use of resources", under category VI. For areas where fish stocks have been severely depleted, the establishment of "no-take zones" has proved to offer great benefits both for the zone itself and the surrounding waters. A 2014 study commissioned by the Wildlife Conservation Society found that the no-take zone off the coast of Belize, for instance, has led to improvements in queen conch, Caribbean spiny lobster and fish populations in as little as one to six years.

22. The Caribbean Challenge Initiative, launched in 2008 by The Nature Conservancy, currently involves Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Puerto Rico. Those countries/areas have committed to (a) conserving at least 20 per cent of their near-shore marine and coastal environments in national marine protected areas systems by 2020; and (b) creating national conservation trust funds, endowed by new tourism fees and other sustainable financing sources, to fund park management.

23. Together with the Government of Italy and the Global Island Partnership,[4] the Caribbean Environment Programme supported the Caribbean Challenge Initiative with targeted workshops and training courses and by assisting with the development of 15 management plans for new marine protected areas. In all, more than 280 managers and stakeholders involved with marine protected areas were trained; together, they were responsible for more than 100,000 kms^2 of protected areas. An additional 50,000 kms^2 of protected areas with marine and coastal components were also designated under the Caribbean Environment Programme project. Furthermore, the Programme has, with its Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine

[4] In August 2012, Grenada became the third co-chair of the Global Island Partnership, joining Seychelles and Palau.

Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, continued to support national efforts to strengthen the management of marine protected areas, using training and exchanges through its Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum and through its regional marine protected areas database containing over 300 such areas.

24. With funding from the Government of France, the Regional Activity Centre for the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region in Guadeloupe has supported regular assessments on the status of coral reefs in the region in collaboration with the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network of the International Coral Reef Initiative. As a result, UNEP, IUCN and the Network jointly produced a report entitled "Status and trends of Caribbean coral reefs: 1970-2012".

25. LifeWeb, an initiative advancing partnerships to finance biodiversity, has supported many projects in the wider Caribbean region. The Government of Spain, for example, funded a project on broad-scale marine spatial planning of marine mammal corridors and protected areas in the wider Caribbean and South-East and North-East Pacific, which assisted countries in applying cross-sectoral ecosystem approaches to management of areas and the protection of marine mammals in both regions. Partners produced maps of marine mammal species richness, distribution, threats and socioeconomic aspects in the wider Caribbean region as well as a database of over 25 species of marine mammals. In April 2014, a regional meeting completed the conceptualization process in areas selected by government experts for the transboundary management of marine mammals. Additionally, project participants completed the management plan for the marine mammal sanctuary of the Dominican Republic in the Silver and Navidad Banks.

26. The approved regional management plan for the conservation of marine mammals in the wider Caribbean region has advanced marine mammal data compilation, analysis and training. The Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife has developed an overarching code of conduct for whale-watching in the region and trained government staff and whale watching operators on those issues. In addition, the Protocol has carried out workshops to address the stranding of marine mammals, for Dutch-, English-, French- and Spanish-speaking countries, as well as a workshop in June 2014 on vessel strike issues in collaboration with the International Whaling Committee.

27. The work of the subprogramme on the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife also includes conservation activities for threatened and endangered species, such as national sea turtle recovery action plans and plans to promote the sustainability of other species identified by the parties to the Protocol.

28. Invasive and alien species constitute an emerging threat to biodiversity in the Caribbean region. The Caribbean Environment Programme supported the regional UNEP/GEF project on invasive species in the insular Caribbean, which concluded in 2013. The Programme has led, together with other partners, efforts to assess and control the lionfish invasion. A regional strategy and a manual for lionfish control have been produced and three workshops have been organized involving local fisherman and other stakeholders from more than 20 countries.

29. The ballast water of ships is a significant means by which invasive species are introduced into a marine ecosystem. IMO has worked to advance the implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, including through the IMO/GEF/UNDP GloBallast Partnerships project, which was initiated in 2009 to raise awareness and spur action on the management of ballast water. With successful resource mobilization, the project has been extended to September 2016 in order to continue to support the efforts of the lead partnering countries. The Caribbean lead partnering countries are Bahamas, Colombia, Jamaica, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). As at April 2013, all lead partnering countries had named lead agencies and established national task forces that included members from the private and public sectors. In addition, GloBallast Partnerships has developed, jointly with the World Maritime University, a guidance document on identifying and managing risks from organisms carried in ships' ballast water.

30. Within GloBallast Partnerships, the Global Industry Alliance for Marine Biosecurity is a public-private sector partnership that aims to catalyse innovative solutions for issues related to ballast water. Currently, the Alliance is co-financing the conversion of the existing advance training course on the management of ship ballast water to an e-learning package, which will be completed in the second half of 2014 and will facilitate the engagement of the shipping industry in the endeavour.

C. Climate change and disaster risk reduction

31. A project on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Jamaica, funded by the European Union and completed in December 2013, sought to increase resilience and reduce risks associated with natural hazards in vulnerable areas of Jamaica. The project was co-managed by the Planning Institute of Jamaica and the Caribbean Environment Programme and accomplished a number of important conservation and climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, including planting 405 hectares of forest, installing data loggers for gathering sea surface temperatures in marine protected areas, restoring five hectares of mangroves, installing two artificial reefs and planting seagrass beds.

32. A project on reducing risks to human and natural assets resulting from climate change, initiated with support from the Government of the United States of America in 2011, focuses on building the technical and institutional capacity within member States of the OECS to undertake and sustain climate change adaptation efforts. Conceived with a five-year projected timespan, those implementing the project are currently working to build up the enabling environment in support of policies and laws to reduce vulnerability, address information gaps, make interventions in freshwater and coastal management to build resilience in the tourism and agriculture sectors, and increase awareness on issues related to climate change. Future efforts of particular relevance include a subproject on invasive species awareness and management. Another OECS initiative, the Global Climate Change Alliance project on climate change adaptation and sustainable land management, aims to improve the region's natural resource base resilience to the impacts of climate change.

33. In the Eastern Caribbean, the Government of Germany is supporting OECS member States in establishing a climate resilient Eastern Caribbean marine managed areas network. The project, implemented by The Nature Conservancy, together with

a range of national and regional agencies, will advance the conservation of national biodiversity and the development of climate change strategies.

34. The University of West Indies Disaster Risk Reduction Centre, in partnership with the Government of Canada, is undertaking a project to advance knowledge-sharing for comprehensive disaster management. The project is expected to create a regional network to manage and disseminate knowledge on disaster risk management, for use in government, community and private sector decision-making.

35. The tsunami programme of the International Oceanographic Commission, in partnership with the Global Foundation for Defense, held training workshops and drill exercises in the Dominican Republic and Haiti in 2014 to promote disaster prevention measures in schools, police forces, and hotels, among others.

36. Recognizing the importance of bolstering the science-policy interface, Jamaica hosted a workshop in December 2013 on the use of satellite data to inform climate change related policymaking in the Caribbean. UNESCO and the University of Ghent co-organized the workshop.

D. Social and economic development

37. The maritime sector is central to economic development in the Caribbean, and Governments and organizations are therefore working to enhance both the container and pleasure craft portions of the sector. Under the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea, all parties must have electronic charts on board by 2018. OECS, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Hydrographic Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have partnered to update the navigation charts of the OECS, and in 2014 commenced a hydrographic scoping study to identify the navigational needs, priorities and existing capacity in OECS member States. The study is expected to be completed at the end of 2014, and the findings will be used to seek funding to undertake a full-scale collection of bathymetry and hydrography data. The data will assist in fisheries management and marine spatial planning among other uses.

38. In respect of other efforts to advance the maritime sector, senior maritime administrators met in Jamaica in February 2013 and agreed to undertake a comprehensive review of the Code of Safety for Small Commercial Vessels operating in the Caribbean in order to bring the Code up to date with current environment protection standards.

39. Five Caribbean states, Antigua and Barbuda (August 2011), the Bahamas (February 2008), Barbados (June 2013), Saint Kitts and Nevis (February 2012), and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (November 2010), have ratified the Maritime Labour Convention, which came into force in August 2013. The Convention provides a comprehensive set of global standards that consolidate and revise existing international law on maritime matters, with the objective of ensuring comprehensive worldwide protection of the rights of seafarers and of establishing a level playing field for countries and shipowners committed to providing decent working and living conditions for seafarers. Ratification by Barbados in 2013 was significant because the Bridgetown Port is vital to the national economy and offers berthing services to some of the largest cruise ships in the world, as well as to container-handling services to the Caribbean region.

40. In October 2012, the International Labour Organization (ILO) commissioned two studies on port infrastructure in the Caribbean region. The studies focused on ports in Trinidad and Tobago and in Jamaica, with the objective of collecting data on employment and skills development. The studies also considered ongoing programmes on the implementation of relevant ILO instruments, as well as some of the labour-related challenges and opportunities in Caribbean ports.

41. Social and economic development in the Caribbean is also shaped by the reality of coastal zone urbanization, which puts additional stress on the environment by increasing the amount of impermeable surfaces and the demands on urban solid waste and wastewater management. In that context, UN-Habitat has been advocating through events, such as Caribbean urban forums, that the process of urbanization should be seen and managed as a national priority, with compact settlements as an important goal.

42. UN-Habitat is also working together with the European Commission, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and five regional Governments to strengthen local, central and regional capacity through a participatory slum upgrading programme.

43. No development will be sustainable without the full integration of women in all aspects of social, economic and political life. The Caribbean Multi-country Office of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) is supporting The Competitiveness Company in Jamaica with a project in which rural women are given access to irrigation through on-farm water harvesting systems and training in the adoption of appropriate technologies for improved irrigation and other water management strategies. The initiative provides training to women farmers in the use of equipment and overall guidance on improved general farming practices. In Dominica, UN-Women is providing support to the Dominica National Council of Women to strengthen the capacities of members of the Agricultural Women Movement so that they can become more meaningfully engaged in agricultural activities.

E. Sustainable oceans governance

44. At the fifty-seventh meeting of the OECS Authority held in 2013, the Heads of Government approved an Eastern Caribbean regional oceans policy with a three-year strategic action plan. It was agreed that boundaries among the OECS member States would be decided first, followed by the boundaries for non-OECS States. To date, a number of countries have commenced the process with the support of the Commonwealth Secretariat. OECS is also promoting a marine research strategy to provide scientific grounding for regional ocean policy and governance.

F. Human capacity development

45. In addition to the training activities outlined above, agencies and organizations have held a number of national and regional workshops and training courses to build human capacity. IMO, for instance, hosted workshops on a number of topics, including the ratification, implementation and enforcement of the MARPOL Convention, oil spill contingency planning and compensatory regimes for pollution damage. Furthermore, the Government of Guyana requested ILO to convene a

capacity-building workshop for public and private sector participants on the green economy and green jobs in Guyana. Training was also provided to over 200 persons in respect of wastewater management, as part of the GEF Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management.

46. In addition, organizations, and Caribbean and partner Governments have worked together to develop the capacity of young people through educational programmes. Morocco has granted scholarships that focus on areas such as health, agriculture, water and electricity, craft, fishing, transport, trade and tourism. The Caribbean Environment Programme has supported curriculum development for Caribbean schools through a partnership with the Caribbean Examinations Council.

IV. Activities of the Commission on the Caribbean Sea

47. The importance of the Caribbean Sea was recognized at the fifth and sixth summits of Heads of State and/or Governments of the Association of Caribbean States, held in Pétion Ville, Haiti, in April 2013. The leaders acknowledged the work of the Commission on the Caribbean Sea and the adoption of General Assembly resolution 67/205. In the agreed plan of action, the member States of the Association mandated that the Commission execute the following activities in relation to resolution 67/205 and ensure the continued work of the organization with regard to securing the sustainable management and development of the Caribbean Sea: (a) recruit an expert tasked with the examination of the legal, economic and financial implications of the Special Area concept; (b) facilitate the work of the Commission by means of greater access to the financial, human and technical resources of the region, in particular through collaboration with the University of the West Indies, and other research and development institutions in the wider Caribbean region; and (c) pursue enhanced participation by pertinent regional institutions in the work of the Commission.

48. The member States of the Association of Caribbean States have agreed that the report of the expert will be used as the basis for a symposium on the Commission on the Caribbean Sea, which will be held in the last quarter of 2014. It is anticipated that the meeting will permit stakeholders to share perspectives on the role of the Commission in ocean governance in the wider Caribbean region and assist in identifying and further developing the programme of work of the Commission in the future.

V. Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

49. The theme of the third International Conference, "The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships", has the potential to inform the shape of future efforts on behalf of the Caribbean Sea and the wider Caribbean region. Many of the activities described in the current report already operate with a partnership approach, and the Conference theme may serve to strengthen collaborative action in the future. The draft outcome for the Conference, known as the Samoa Pathway, has also highlighted many of the issues critical to the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea. Climate change, the sustainable use and preservation of oceans and seas, the management of

chemicals and waste, biodiversity and invasive and alien species are among the many areas addressed in the draft outcome that have critical relevance to the Caribbean Sea.

VI. Conclusion

50. Since the previous report, issued in 2012, member States of the wider Caribbean region have continued to work collaboratively on behalf of their shared resource, the Caribbean Sea. They have been supported in their efforts by the international community, including partner Governments, inter-governmental organizations and the private sector. The efforts address the economic, social and environmental aspects of development and often include capacity-building components. In addition, the ecosystem-based approach has been adopted in many cases.

51. The Association of Caribbean States and its Commission on the Caribbean Sea continue to explore and analyse the legal and financial implications of the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development. With renewed attention given to this subject, concrete conclusions and recommendations are expected to be forthcoming.

Annex

Report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution A/67/205 entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations"

Introduction

1. The Caribbean Sea is a fragile and complex marine area that is shared by several countries of varying sizes and stages of economic development and upon which the populations of those countries depend for their social, economic, cultural, climatic, aesthetic and other benefits. Therefore, in order to facilitate the sustainable management and development of the Caribbean Sea it is more prudent to utilize a network structure throughout the wider Caribbean region that is able to coordinate the myriad projects and policies that relate to the Caribbean Sea.

2. In that regard, the Commission on the Caribbean Sea has been identified as the mechanism that can be utilized to accomplish that goal through the establishment and maintenance of a technical and policy-oriented network comprising all member States of the Association of Caribbean States and organizations that conduct activity related in any way to the Caribbean Sea. The rationale of the initiative is to facilitate the coordination and exchange of experiences among States with regard to their policies and activities in order to strengthen existing mechanisms by promoting synergies and inter-institutional cooperation, while respecting the mandate of each State and/or organization.

3. The present report outlines the activities of the Association of Caribbean States and its Commission on the Caribbean Sea as they relate to General Assembly resolution 67/205 entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations", which was adopted in November 2012.

Institutionalization of the Commission on the Caribbean Sea and its subcommissions

4. In the period 2010-2012, the focus of the Commission on the Caribbean Sea was on creating awareness for the potential role of the Commission within the wider Caribbean region among States and institutions. Awareness for the initiative has also been extended to territories and organizations outside of the wider Caribbean region, with a view to garnering financial support for initiatives.

5. The forums in which the Commission on the Caribbean Sea has been discussed include:

- Ninth University of Finland-United Nations Environment Programme course on multilateral environmental agreements, Grand Anse, Grenada, from 19 August to 31 September 2012

- Regional workshop on the role of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in the settlement of disputes relating to the Law of the Sea in the Caribbean region, held in Mexico City on 5 and 6 June 2013
- Regional workshop on climate vulnerability in the marine-coastal zones: Caribbean and Central America, held in San José from 23 to 25 April 2014

6. The importance of the Caribbean Sea and the role that can be played by the Commission on the Caribbean Sea and the Caribbean Sea Initiative were also recognized and endorsed at the fifth and sixth summits of Heads of State and/or Government of the Association of Caribbean States held, respectively, in Pétion Ville, Haiti, in April 2013 and Mérida (Yucatan), Mexico, in April 2014. At the fifth Summit, the Commission was issued mandates by virtue of the Declaration of Pétion Ville to carry out the task of examining the legal, economic and financial implications, as well as the benefits of the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area on the national and international scales, in order to advance the institutionalization of the mechanism. The mandate also included related activities to support the overarching initiative, such as:

- Recruitment of an expert tasked with the examination of the legal, economic and financial implications of the "special area" concept
- Facilitation of the work of the Commission by means of greater access to the financial, human, and technical resources of the region, in particular, through collaboration with the University of the West Indies and other research and development institutions in the wider Caribbean region
- Pursuit of enhanced participation by pertinent regional institutions in the work of the Commission

7. During the period 2012-2014 Commission on the Caribbean Sea held two meetings. The 12th meeting was held on 22 January 2013, and the 13th on 6 November 2013.

8. During the 12th meeting of the Commission on the Caribbean Sea, the Chairmanship of Barbados came to an end and Costa Rica was elected the new Chair. Barbados continues to provide support to the Commission in the capacity of Vice-Chair, along with the Dominican Republic. The member States that comprise the Commission also agreed to reinvigorate the legal and technical subcommissions of the Commission in order to strengthen the institutionalization process. In that regard, several States provided candidates who will serve on the subcommissions in order to provide support for the activities of the Commission. The meeting also agreed upon the convening of a symposium in which stakeholder will be able to share their perspectives on the critical role of the Commission in the wider Caribbean region and gain support for its operationalizaton. The meeting is scheduled for the third quarter of 2014.

International support for the Commission on the Caribbean Sea

9. Turkey, an observer State of the Association of Caribbean States, continues to provide substantial support to the Commission on the Caribbean Sea. During the period from August 2012 to February 2014, the Commission received contributions totalling $149,977.50 from Turkey.

Progress with relevant international agreements

10. In the realm of regional agreements that touch and concern the Caribbean Sea, there has been advancement with the ratification of the Protocol concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marne Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region by the Dominican Republic in January 2014. The ratification brings to 11 the total number of ratifications of the Protocol. The Protocol, which was adopted in 1999, and entered into force on 13 August 13 2010, is the only regional agreement of its kind to address the prevention, reduction and control of marine pollution from land-based activities.

Programmes to promote fisheries management and marine biodiversity conservation

11. In the area of fisheries management there has been continued activity in the region to improve and enhance fishing operations. The Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo CentroAmericano (OSPESCA), in partnership with the Central American Integration System, continues to play a significant role in promoting sustainable development and coordination within the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the region through the definition, approval and implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and projects. Some of their noteworthy projects include:

(a) **Strengthening of interregional fish and aquaculture product markets in the countries of the Central American Integration System**. In accordance with the mandate of OSPESCA to promote interregional trade, the project addresses the growing concern of food and nutrition security particularly in rural populations, through technical assistance and the exchange of experiences, thus contributing to the strengthening of interregional markets for fish and aquacuiture products;

(b) **Best practices in fisheries management in countries of the Central American Integration System**. OSPESCA, through an agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has undertaken to document best practices in successful fisheries management cases. The project is based on FAO guidelines in the application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries, with the objective of highlighting positive examples that can be used to address issues relating to national and regional fishing resources and ecosystems and the socioeconomic situation of stakeholder groups;

(c) **Regional support programme for the implementation of a fishing and aquaculture policy**. The objective of the project is to consolidate policy for the integration of fisheries and aquaculture in Central America through strategies on regional governance, promotion and development that favour the sustainable management of resources and the production and consumption of high quality protein;

(d) **Professional training and sustainable productive development of small-scale fishing in Central America**. The project aims to contribute to sustainable social and economic development and food security in the Central American region by building human resources capabilities in the small-scale fisheries and aquaculture sector;

(e) **Governance and management of the by-catch from trawling in Latin America and the Caribbean**. Through public-private partnerships and the adoption of best practices, the project seeks to improve the management of by-catch resulting from shrimp trawling/long lining in order to conserve the habitats or "blue forests" in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(f) **Sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the areas beyond national jurisdictions**. Through the application of an ecosystem approach to fisheries, the project aims to achieve the responsible, efficient and sustainable production of tuna and the conservation of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction;

(g) **Technology for the integration of small-scale fishing in OSPESCA member countries**. The aim of the project is to integrate the productivity and competitiveness of small-scale fishing though the use of clean technologies and improved navigation and capture;

(h) **Project in support of fisheries management processes in the Central American isthmus**. The objective of the project is to combine inter-institutional efforts to strengthen the application of policy integration, in particular the management strategy that drives the member States;

(i) **Programme for strategic actions for the sustainable management of living marine resources in the Caribbean Sea and north Brazilian platform**. The objective of the project is to maintain healthy reef ecosystems, continental platforms and pelagic species.

12. The mandate of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, established by the Caribbean Community, is to promote and facilitate the responsible utilization of the region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future populations of the region. During the 6th meeting of the Mechanism's Ministerial Council, held in the Bahamas on 15 June 2012, member States reiterated their commitment to regional cooperation, emphasizing that there was a need for coordinated regional action in order to control the negative impact of issues, such as the invasive lionfish on marine ecosystems and fish stocks, and the inundation of the coastlines with sargassum seaweed. They also expressed the commitment to developing an approach in relation to addressing the impact of natural disasters and climate change on marine resources and the livelihoods of fishing communities.

13. In 2012, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism held a workshop on good practices, which focused on fish quality assurance and the marketing of fish and stock products. The Japan International Cooperation Agency facilitated a meeting for fisheries officials from member countries of the Mechanism from 25 to 27 July 2012 in order to further the aim of promoting best practices in the region. At the gathering of stakeholders, the emphasis was on the sharing of experiences, success stories and lessons learned in critical areas for sustainable development. Discussions were also held on the topic of achieving profitability and sustainability by improving fisheries infrastructures and technology in the region.

14. The enhancement of the fishing industry has also been included in strategies for industry management. The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and the fisheries training programme of the United Nations University have established a long-term partnership aimed at building national and regional capacities for

fisheries development and management. One of the initiatives was a 2014 workshop focusing on present and emerging fisheries demands. The exercise involved examining the use of data for economic analysis and fisheries management purposes; the realistic analysis of fisheries data for stock assessment purposes; and future data requirements arising from international markets.

15. The member States of the Caribbean Fisheries Mechanism restated their stance against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing with their collective written arguments, which were submitted on Case No. 21. The case, which is under review by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, was lodged by the Subregional Fisheries Commission (Africa) in 2013 and addresses issues such as the obligations of the flag State in cases where illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is perpetrated within the exclusive economic zone of third-party States, as well as the extent of the liability of the flag State. In its submission, the Mechanism noted that the most important rights of the coastal State relates to the right to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing of its resources, such as the rights to legislate and enforce its laws, to ensure sustainable development and management of fish stocks and to take all necessary steps to prevent, deter, eliminate, and prosecute perpetrators of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the coastal State's jurisdiction. That position is in line with the goal of the Mechanism to promote the sustainable use of living marine and other aquatic resources in the Caribbean by the development, efficient management and conservation of such resources.

16. On the issue of coral reefs, the Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, at its eighth meeting in Roseau, Dominica, on 23 May 2014, endorsed an action plan on the regional coral reef. The plan was prepared and coordinated by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, with funding and technical assistance provided by the Government of Australia and the Australian Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. The aim of the plan is to strengthen coordinated action to protect, conserve and manage the region's ecosystems since it is recognized that healthy coral reef ecosystems are critical to both the tourism and fisheries industries and, consequently, are important to the livelihoods of Caribbean communities. It was noted at the meeting that the main intent was to ensure that the living marine resources of the region were managed and protected so that they would be able to make optimum sustainable contributions to the region's economic and social development.

17. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through its Coral Reef Conservation Programme international strategy has identified the wider Caribbean region as one with which it will work in order to strengthen the capacity to manage the coral ecosystem for the period 2010-2015. The initiative aims to:

- Work with regional initiatives to build marine protected area networks and strengthen local management capacity to improve and maintain coral reef ecosystems and the communities that depend on them
- Develop and implement tools and practices to more effectively observe, predict, communicate and manage the impacts of climate change in priority international locations
- Strengthen local and national capacities and policy frameworks to reduce the impact of fishing on coral reef ecosystems

- Strengthen policy frameworks and institutional capacities to reduce the impact of pollution resulting from land-based activities

18. In respect of the sustainability of the Caribbean Sea, another initiative addresses the sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the Caribbean arge marine ecosystem and adjacent regions. The project is intended to assist participating countries in improving the management of their shared living marine resources through an ecosystem-based management approach. The project comprises specific objectives, including:

- Identifying, analysing and agreeing upon major issues, causes and actions required to achieve sustainable management of the shared living marine resources in the Caribbean large marine ecosystem
- Improving the shared knowledge base for the sustainable use and management of transboundary living marine resources
- Implementing legal, policy and institutional reforms to achieve sustainable transboundary living marine resources management
- Developing an institutional and procedural approach to level of monitoring and evaluation of, and reporting on, living marine resources

19. The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility, with over 20 participating countries.

20. It is anticipated that the initiatives mentioned above can be accommodated as part of a network structure that promotes interaction and exchange among States, countries, territories and institutions so that information and expertise can be effectively and efficiently applied in addressing the issues that have an impact on the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea.

Disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery

21. The member States of the Association of Caribbean States continue to be affected by natural disasters that have significant and debilitating impacts on their communities. In recognition of that fact, the area of disaster risk reduction has been identified as a focal area for the Association, and various initiatives have been introduced in order to aid the territories in effectively addressing the issue. Consequently, at the fifth Summit of Heads of State and/or Government of the Association of Caribbean States, member States approved a plan of action that ensured the continued pursuit of activities in that area. Such activities have included the convening of an international workshop on disaster risk management associated with natural phenomena, held in Mexico City on 25 and 26 November 2013; and the implementation of the project on strengthening hydro-meteorological operations and services in Caribbean small island developing States in respect of an early warning system, which is now in its second phase.

22. In addition to those activities, a number of other activities are in progress in this area since the Heads of State and/or Government who met at the sixth Summit, held in Mérida pledged to promote a vision that would allow disaster risk to be managed using a comprehensive approach, consistent with the policies of the

countries of the region that would reduce risk, while transforming member States into sustainable countries and territories.

23. Accordingly, current projects include a radio programme entitled "The rough season". The programme takes the format of a soap opera, in which the content and message include pertinent information on the safeguards and actions to be taken prior to, during and after a natural disaster. The programme is currently on the Association of Caribbean States website, Facebook and YouTube and is broadcast via radio in Trinidad and Tobago. The content is being translated for dissemination throughout the wider Caribbean region.

24. Another project addresses strengthening hydrometeorological operations and services in the Caribbean small island developing States initiative, which is in its second phase. The initiative was developed in collaboration with the Finnish Meteorological Institute and aims at improving institutional governance and early warning services in communities.

25. Along the same line, the "Green response" project was undertaken in collaboration with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies to develop and implement environmentally friendly processes for responding to disasters.

26. The vulnerability of the countries and territories of the wider Caribbean region, in particular small island developing States, has become exacerbated with the effects of global warming. It is with this in mind that the Association of Caribbean States has decided to incorporate activities that address the concern into its work programme. One such activity will be a forum on aspects of vulnerability, such as climate change and its impact, which is scheduled for the last quarter of 2014.

27. The Government of Mexico is spearheading a project on Caribbean geospatial information infrastructure strengthening, which seeks to promote the development of spatial data infrastructure in 11 countries in the Caribbean. It is anticipated that the project will contribute to effective decision-making and the formulation of public policies by understanding the positioning, location and coordinates of human settlements and their context in order to strengthen the generation, use and sharing of geospatial information. Specific aims of the project include:

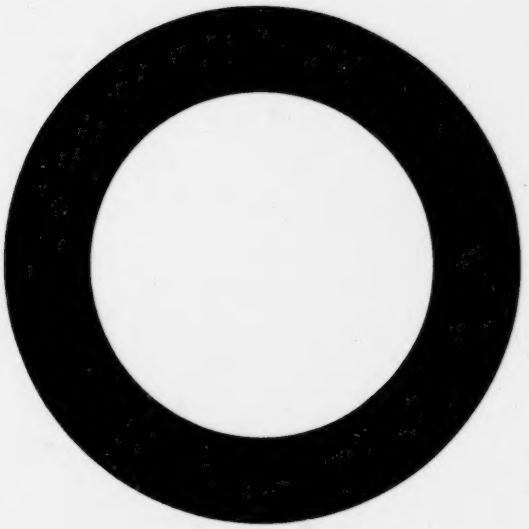
- Enhancing and coordinating global geospatial information management activities by involving Member States at the highest level as key participants
- Engaging in joint decision-making and progress on the use of geospatial information within national and global policy frameworks
- Working with Governments to improve policy, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks to share information
- Addressing global issues and contributing to collective knowledge as a community with shared interests and concerns

28. The Association of Caribbean States is currently working with the National Institute for Statistics and Geography in Mexico in order to set up a baseline through the collection and analysis of questionnaires from all countries involved. The responses to the questionnaire will form the basis for a diagnostic exercise that will serve to define the project.

29. Other projects under development include the enhancement of human resources capacities through educational activities, in which participants can earn a diploma (virtual) in risk management and disaster reduction in Spanish and English and a Master's degree in regional disaster risk reduction.

Legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development

30. Pursuant to resolution 67/205, in which the General Assembly requested that the Secretary-General submit a report to the General Assembly on the possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, the Association of Caribbean States recruited an expert consultant to examine this and other related issues and to provide a report thereon. The consultancy is now in progress and will be concluded by the middle of August 2014.



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Items 13 (a), 18, 19 (a), 116 of the provisional agenda*

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference

Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing

I. Mandate

1. In its resolution 66/288, the General Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want". In paragraphs 255 and 256 of the annex to the resolution, the Heads of State and Government stated:

> 255. We agree to establish an intergovernmental process under the auspices of the General Assembly, with technical support from the United Nations system and in open and broad consultation with relevant international and regional financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders. The process will assess financing needs, consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks and evaluate additional initiatives, with a view to preparing a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives.

* A/69/150.

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256. An intergovernmental committee, comprising thirty experts nominated by regional groups, with equitable geographical representation, will implement this process, concluding its work by 2014.

2. In its resolution 67/203, the General Assembly requested the intergovernmental committee to provide an update on the progress of its work before the beginning of the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly.

3. By its decision 67/559, the General Assembly welcomed the Committee's membership, comprised of 30 experts as nominated by the five regional groups of the United Nations, as listed in annex I to the decision. In that decision, regional groups were authorized to appoint replacements for those experts from their group who cease to be members of the Committee, effective upon notification of the President of the General Assembly and the Committee by the relevant regional group. Experts already nominated by regional groups to serve as replacements for members of the Committee were listed in annex II to the decision.

II. Organizational matters

A. Organization of work

4. Sessions were held as follows: first session (28-30 August 2013, 6 formal meetings); second session (2-6 December 2013, 10 formal meetings); third session (3-7 March 2014, 9 formal meetings); fourth session (12-16 May 2014, 10 formal meetings) and fifth session (4-8 August 2014, 8 formal meetings).

B. Opening

5. On 28 August 2013, the Acting President of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly (Peru) opened the session and made a statement. A statement was also made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

C. Election of officers

6. At its 1st meeting of the first session, on 28 August 2013, the Committee elected by acclimation Pertti Majanen (Finland) and Mansur Muhtar (Nigeria) as its Co-Chairs.

D. Agenda

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda (A/AC.282/2013/1), which read:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, relating to the preparation of a report

proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives.

4. Other matters.

5. Adoption of the report.

E. Modalities of work

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted its modalities of work.[1]

9. At the 3rd meeting of its first session, on 29 August 2013, the Committee agreed to organize its work into three clusters of topics, as follows:

1. Assessing financing needs, mapping of current flows and emerging trends, and the impact of domestic and international environments.

2. Mobilization of resources and their effective use:

(a) Domestic resources (public and private): increasing effectiveness and mobilizing additional resources;

(b) External resources (public and private): increasing effectiveness and mobilizing additional resources;

(c) Blended finance (domestic and international) and new initiatives;

3. Institutional arrangements, policy coherence, synergies and governance issues.

F. Proceedings of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts

Closed meetings

10. Pursuant to its modalities of work, the Committee conducted the majority of its work in closed plenary meetings, in an interactive format.

Open meetings

11. A briefing to the General Assembly on the work of the Committee (pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 67/203) was held on 30 August 2013. The Committee also held an open briefing on 16 May 2014 on the progress of the Committee's work.

12. Interactive multi-stakeholder dialogues with Member States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, business sector and other major groups engaged in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, the financing for development process and the post-2015 development agenda were held on 5 December 2013, 3 March, 12 May, 18 July and 5 August 2014. The multi-stakeholder dialogues were preceded by open briefings.

13. A joint meeting with the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals was held on 5 March 2014.

[1] See http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1558.

Other meetings

14. The Committee held regional outreach meetings in Santiago de Chile (Latin America and Caribbean), in Helsinki (Europe), Addis Ababa (Africa), Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (Arab region), and in Jakarta (Asia). In addition, numerous informal outreach events and multi-stakeholder dialogues were organized in different locations, including events with the international financial institutions.

G. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts

15. At the 8th meeting of its fifth session, on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted its draft report contained in an informal paper to be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration.

III. Introduction

16. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the international community agreed to undertake a major effort to promote sustainable development globally and in every nation and free humanity from poverty and hunger (see Conference outcome document, General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex). The General Assembly, in its decision 67/559, established the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and tasked it with developing options for a sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives.

17. At the conference, Member States reaffirmed all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof.

18. The work of the Committee is rooted in the principles expressed in the outcome document of the Conference and in the universal values expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2), noting that peaceful and inclusive societies, gender equality and human rights for all, including the right to development, are strong enablers for sustainable development. Eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

19. The Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[2] held in 2002, provided a basis for the Committee's analysis, with its emphasis on the use of all forms of financing, including public, private, domestic and international in a holistic manner, as well as its recognition that each country has primary responsibility for its own development, while the global community is responsible for an enabling international environment. However, the Committee also recognized the need to update this framework to meet the challenges of the post-2015 development agenda.

[2] A/CONF.198/11, chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

20. In this regard, the Committee was mindful of the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, and guided by the resolve of Member States that the post-2015 development agenda should reinforce the commitment of the international community to sustainable development based on a coherent approach that integrates its economic, social, and environmental dimensions. This approach involves working towards a set of global goals, universal in nature and applicable to all countries, while taking account of differing national circumstances and respecting national policies and priorities.

21. Building on the modalities and spirit that led to the Rio Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus, the Committee consulted widely with a range of stakeholders, including civil society, the business sector, and other major groups. This outreach was integral to the Committee's work and included multi-stakeholder consultations, regional meetings, and calls for contributions on its website. The Committee is grateful for all the inputs received.

22. The Committee began its analysis by assessing sustainable development financing needs, current financing flows and potential sources of financing. It found that needs are huge and the challenges in meeting them are enormous — but surmountable. Indeed, global public and private savings would be sufficient to meet the needs. Yet it is clear that current financing and investment patterns will not deliver sustainable development. In particular, expected returns on investments associated with sustainable development are often not as attractive as other opportunities, especially in the near term. At the same time, there are many competing demands on public resources, and governments have not been able to mobilize adequate public financing to undertake necessary investments that profit-seeking investors eschew.

23. The solution includes better aligning private incentives with public goals and creating a policy framework that encourages for-profit investment in these areas, while also mobilizing public resources for essential sustainable development activities. The quality of finance also matters. Efforts to reduce corruption and to adopt more economically and socially effective public sector policies are thus important. Policies and incentives should also aim to better match investor preference with investment needs, so that, for example, long-term sustainable development needs are not financed with short-term funds.

24. The work of the Committee concludes that there is no one simple policy solution. Instead, a basket of policy measures will be necessary, encompassing a toolkit of policy options, regulations, institutions, programmes and instruments, from which Governments can choose appropriate policy combinations. The Committee recommends a cohesive approach, with national financing strategies as an integral part of national sustainable development strategies. While the design and implementation of policies will be at the national level, achieving sustainable development will require international support and cooperation. The Committee's approach is based on the principle of country ownership, supported by a strengthened global partnership for sustainable development. The Committee finds that a concerted effort that draws on all actors and mobilizes all resources in an integrated manner, while maximizing their impact, will allow the Committee to finance the investments necessary to achieve sustainable development for all.

25. The Committee begins the analytical section of the report with a discussion of financing needs and recent trends in financing flows. It then presents a "strategic

approach" derived from an analysis of the flow of funds from sources to uses. The bulk of the report (section VI) considers policy options to strengthen the four basic categories of financial resource mobilization available for financing sustainable development, namely, domestic public, domestic private, international public and international private finance, with an additional focus on means for blending official and private resources and collaboration between various actors. Throughout this section, the Committee emphasizes the interplay of the different types of financing and their potential synergies. In section VII, the Committee addresses international policy imperatives for a strong international economic environment and its governance, fully aware that fractures in the global economic architecture will undermine the global project to deliver sustainable development. It concludes with a discussion of options for the way forward.

IV. The global context

A. A changing global context

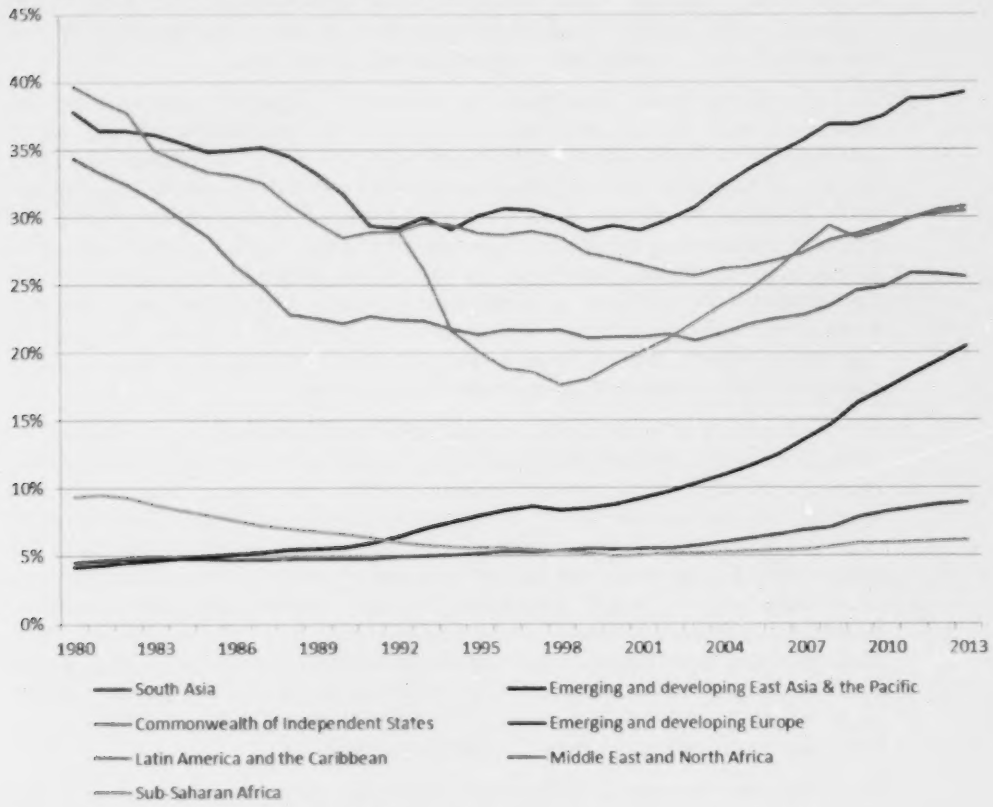
26. Since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000, many developing countries have experienced significantly faster economic growth than developed economies. For example, between 2005 and 2012, gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 1.2 per cent annually in developed countries, and 6.1 per cent in developing countries (at constant prices), with the gap between GDP per capita of developed and developing countries narrowing (see Figure I). In this context, global poverty decreased significantly, and the world reached the poverty reduction target of Millennium Development Goal 1 five years ahead of schedule. Several other Millennium Development Goal targets have also been met ahead of time, including access to improved drinking water, gender parity in primary education and political participation of women, while some others are on track to be met, such as the targets on fighting malaria and tuberculosis.

27. Despite these achievements, there are differences between and within countries, and much unfinished business remains to realize all of the Millennium Development Goals. Close to one billion people continue to live in extreme poverty. Many live marginally above the poverty line and are vulnerable to falling back into poverty when faced with adverse shocks. This vulnerability is often associated with gender, disability, ethnicity, indigenity and geographic location. Additional development challenges include growing unemployment, particularly among youths, as well as challenges associated with growth of cities.

28. Insufficient progress is related to several factors, including disparities in growth rates across regions and rising inequalities. While the narrowing of the GDP per capita gap between developed and developing countries reflects impressive gains in East Asia as well as emerging and developing Europe, some countries have not yet recovered from weak growth in the 1980s and 1990s, despite improvements since 2000. Indeed, the gap between GDP per capita of Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East and North Africa and that of the developed countries is greater today than it was more than 30 years ago (see Figure I). Productivity growth in some developing and emerging economies remains too slow to significantly reduce the gap with developed countries.

29. At the same time, income inequalities within many countries have increased, and social inequalities and inequalities of opportunity also remain high. There are exceptions, though; for example, income inequality has fallen in some countries in Latin America, highlighting the fact that public policies can make a difference.

Figure I
GDP per capita, relative to advanced economies



Source: Calculations based on IMF *World Economic Outlook*, April 2014.

30. Risks and vulnerabilities have also become more pronounced. Environmental degradation, climate change, natural disasters and other threats to the global environment (such as oceans, forests and biodiversity), pose additional challenges to the ability of all countries, and developing countries in particular, to achieve sustainable development. The global economic and financial crisis revealed risks within the international financial system, as well as the vulnerability of countries to external financial traumas, adversely impacting their capacity to mobilize resources for development. Clearly, without a stable financial system the post-2015 development agenda risks being derailed by a sudden regional or global financial crisis.

B. The scope of financing needs

31. Against this backdrop, financing needs for poverty eradication and sustainable development remain significant. They include addressing (a) basic needs related to eradicating poverty and hunger, improving health and education, providing access to affordable energy and promoting gender equality; (b) national sustainable development investment financing needs, such as for infrastructure, rural development, adaptation and climate resilient development, and energy; and (c) global public goods, including the protection of the global environment and combatting climate change and its impact, as well as other areas.

32. Quantifying needs is complex and necessarily imprecise, since estimates are dependent on a host of assumptions, including the macroeconomic and policy environment — at the sector and economy-wide levels — and international rules, norms and standards. The cost of achieving sustainable development also depends on the effective use of resources. Estimates of financing needs thus vary widely. The estimates presented in the present report are indicative, aimed at providing an order of magnitude of financing requirements, rather than precise figures. In addition, the Committee has not attempted to combine the estimates of needs by economic sector, type of demand, or category of country into a global estimate, as such an aggregation exercise does not adequately take into account the synergies and cross-cutting nature of sustainable development, among others.

33. With regard to social needs, a rough estimate of the cost of a global safety net to eradicate extreme poverty in all countries (measured as increasing incomes of the poorest to the $1.25-a-day standard) is about $66 billion annually. Large investment requirements are also identified in addressing hunger, and health and education needs.[3] Ultimately, the eradication of poverty requires sustained and inclusive growth and job creation. In that regard, estimates of annual investment requirements in infrastructure — water, agriculture, telecoms, power, transport, buildings, industrial and forestry sectors — amount to $5 trillion to $7 trillion globally. There is evidence that many micro-, small and medium-enterprises, which are often a main provider of employment, have difficulty obtaining financing. The unmet need for credit for small and medium enterprises has been estimated to be up to $2.5 trillion in developing countries and about $3.5 trillion globally.

34. There are also vast financing needs for the provision of global public goods. The order of magnitude of additional investment requirements for "climate-compatible" and "sustainable development" scenarios (which include goals and targets related to climate) are estimated to be of the order of several trillion dollars per year (see Figure II). In assessing financing needs, it is pertinent to appreciate that the costs of inaction are even larger than the costs of action, especially for the poorest and in the realm of climate change. For example, delaying mitigation action, particularly for the countries that emit the largest quantities of greenhouse gases, is estimated to significantly increase the cost of transitioning to a low-carbon economy in the medium and long term.

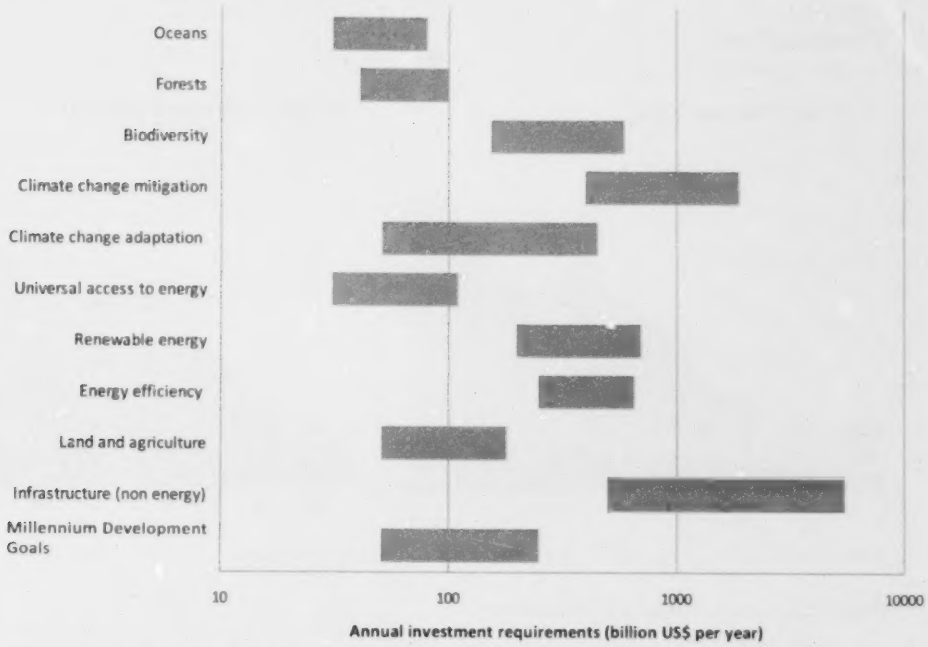
35. Financing needs also differ across countries and regions. While financing needs are disproportionately large relative to the size of their economies in many

[3] Some estimates of these needs include: $50.2 billion annually to eliminate hunger by 2025; $37 billion to achieve universal health care; $42 billion to achieve universal primary education and expand access to lower secondary education.

developing countries, there are specific needs in least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries, countries in Africa and countries emerging from conflict. Challenges facing middle-income countries should also be addressed.

Figure II

Orders of magnitude of investment requirements for various sectors taken from the literature



Source: United Nations System Task Team Background Paper 1, x-axis in logarithmic scale (see sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1558).

C. Emerging patterns of resource flows

36. Despite large needs, the emerging patterns of resource flows highlight the opportunities for mobilizing financing needed to support the achievement of sustainable development. Global savings remain robust, at about $22 trillion a year (inclusive of public and private sources), despite a temporary decline due to the crisis.[4] The stock of global financial assets — a placement for only a small portion of annual global savings — is estimated to be about $218 trillion (see A/68/357). Even a small shift in the way resources are allocated would have an enormous impact.

37. All four types of finance — public and private, domestic and international — have increased since 2002. Domestic finance has grown rapidly in recent years,

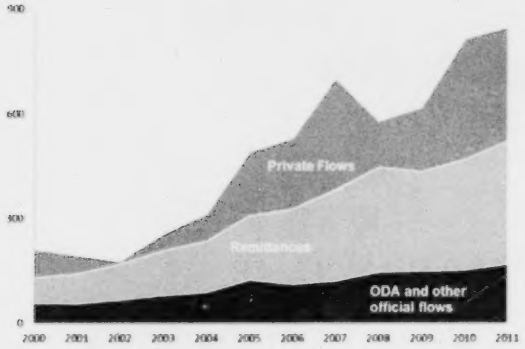
[4] Calculation based on IMF, *World Economic Outlook April 2014*, at purchasing power parity exchange rates.

representing by far the greatest share of financing sources for most countries. In many developing countries, particularly in least developed countries, public international finance remains crucial.[5]

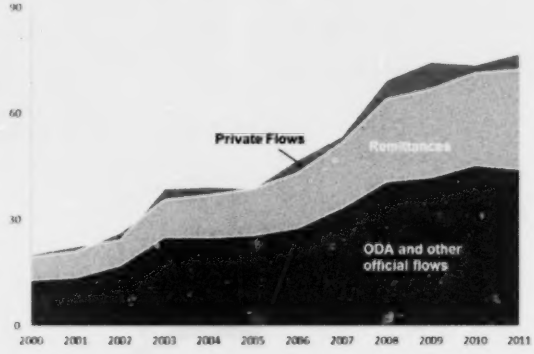
38. International financial flows to developing countries increased rapidly over the last decade, mainly driven by growth in private capital flows and remittances, though official development assistance (ODA) also strengthened, as depicted in Figure III.

Figure III
Financing flows
(in billions of United States dollars)

To developing countries



To least developed countries



Source: OECD DAC Stats, World Bank Migration and Remittances Data.

Public domestic resource mobilization

39. Public domestic finance in developing countries more than doubled between 2002 and 2011, increasing from $838 billion to $1.86 trillion. In absolute terms, this growth for the most part reflects developments in middle-income countries. Domestic public finance also doubled in low-income countries, although it remains insufficient to meet sustainable development needs. Tax revenues account for about 10-14 per cent of GDP in low-income countries, which is about one third less than in middle-income countries, and significantly less than in high-income countries, which achieve tax to GDP ratios of 20-30 per cent.

40. In many countries, tax evasion and avoidance hinder domestic resource mobilization. In addition, illicit financial outflows, including tax evasion across borders, have undermined tax collection. Estimates of illicit financial flows, by nature clandestine, vary widely, but point to substantial numbers (United Nations System Task Team Background 2).

41. Domestic public resources are also impacted by subsidies. For example, in 2011 pre-tax energy subsidies amounted to $480 billion, primarily in developing

[5] See United Nations System Task Team Background Papers 2 and 3 and summaries of regional outreach events of the Committee, available at sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1558.

countries, and post-tax energy subsidies amounted to $1.9 trillion, primarily in developed countries.[6] Similarly, in agriculture, producer support subsidies among OECD members total $259 billion in 2012. Eliminating these would allow public resources to be redirected to other priorities. In all subsidy decisions, however, any adverse impacts on the poor and the environment need to be addressed, either through appropriate compensating policies or through better targeting.

42. There has been considerable change in the landscape of sovereign debt of developing countries since the Millennium Declaration. External debt amounted to 22.6 per cent of GDP in developing countries in 2013, as compared to 33.5 per cent a decade earlier. The debt difficulties of heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs) have largely been addressed under the terms of the HIPC Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative.

43. Some countries covered under HIPC have begun to issue debt on international markets, facilitated by a low interest rate environment. The issuance of public debt in domestic currencies (which, unlike external debt, does not subject the issuing country to foreign exchange risk) has also grown, reflecting the development of local capital markets. For example, local currency government debt in sub-Saharan Africa increased from $11 billion in 2005 to $31 billion in 2012. However, much of this increased issuance is short-term. Excessive growth in both domestic and international debt poses risks to economic sustainability, underscoring the need for prudent debt management.

44. Nonetheless, the aggregate picture masks growing debt problems in some countries. Currently, 2 low-income countries are considered to be in debt distress, with 14 at high risk and 28 at moderate risk of distress. Debt sustainability is particularly problematic in some small States. In 2013, the average ratio of public debt to GDP of small island developing States amounted to 107.7 per cent, compared to 26.4 per cent for developing countries as a whole. At the same time, a few developed countries have also experienced sovereign debt distress.

Domestic private finance

45. Financial systems in many developing countries rely primarily on the banking sector. Although domestic credit has grown substantially over the past decade, in many countries, banking sector credit is primarily short term. For example, in some countries in Africa, short-term credit accounts for up to 90 per cent of bank financing, compared to 50-60 per cent for developing countries as a whole. In addition, gross domestic savings rates in many least developed countries remain significantly below the amount necessary to drive sustained domestic investment.

46. Domestic bond markets have also grown substantially, driven primarily by sovereign debt issues. Corporate bond markets, though growing, remain small. On average, private debt securities were only 5 per cent of GDP in middle-income countries, compared to 34 per cent in high-income countries in 2010. The lack of long-term bond markets limits the availability of long-term financing in many countries. Similarly, the depth of equity markets stood at nearly 60 per cent of GDP

[6] The IMF defines consumer subsidies to include two components: a pre-tax subsidy (if the price paid by firms and households is below supply and distribution costs) and a tax subsidy (if taxes are below their efficient level). IMF, 2013, *Energy Subsidy Reform — Lessons and Implications*, Washington, D.C.

in high-income countries; in low- and middle-income countries it amounted to only 20 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively.

47. The presence of institutional investors in developing countries has, however, been growing, and could potentially increase resources available for long-term investment in sustainable development. Emerging market pension funds are estimated to manage $2.5 trillion in assets, and are expected to increase significantly. A sizeable portion of these portfolios is invested in domestic sovereign debt. In some developing countries national pension funds have also been investing directly in national or regional infrastructure, including in South Africa, Ghana, Chile, Mexico and Peru.

48. There is also a growing emphasis on the environmental, social and governance impacts of investments. An increasing number of companies are reporting on these factors (referred to as ESG reporting) and have signed on to initiatives such as the Principles for Responsible Investment and the United Nations Global Compact.[7] Nonetheless, the share of investment subject to ESG considerations remains small relative to global capital markets, at 7 per cent or $611 trillion of investments in the $12,143 trillion global capital market in 2010.

International public finance

49. The development contribution of ODA improved in the wake of the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus in 2002, with increased attention paid to making ODA more effective while increasing its volume. ODA reached an all-time high of $134.8 billion in net terms in 2013, after falling in 2011 and 2012. Nonetheless, only five OECD DAC donors reached the 0.7 per cent of gross national income target.

50. ODA continues to provide essential financial and technical cooperation to many developing countries (see figure III), including least developed countries and many African countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, and countries affected by conflict. In most countries with government spending of less than PPP$ 500 per person per year, ODA accounts for an average of more than two thirds of international resource flows, and about one third of government revenues. About 40 per cent of ODA currently benefits least developed countries.[8] However, ODA to least developed countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, has fallen in recent years, and according to preliminary results from donor surveys this trend is likely to persist.[8]

51. The Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development has pioneered on a voluntary basis a number of fundraising mechanisms to raise additional resources, including the international solidarity levy on air tickets, the funds from which are contributed to UNITAID to help purchase drugs for developing countries. There are 11 countries using the euro currency that are currently envisioning a financial transaction tax from 2016, albeit without earmarking funds for development

[7] The Principles for Responsible Investments are an investor initiative in partnership with the UNEP Finance Initiative and the United Nations Global Compact.

[8] 32 per cent of ODA, including both bilateral net and imputed multilateral ODA to least developed countries, was allocated directly to least developed countries in 2012, and an estimated 52 per cent of ODA unallocated by country could also be attributed to least developed countries, bringing the total to 40 per cent (OECD, 2014, *Targeting ODA towards countries in greatest need*, available at www.oecd.org/dac/financing-development.htm).

or financing of global public goods as of yet. Some countries (e.g., France) have, at the national level, put in place a financial transaction tax, with part of the proceeds used to finance ODA programmes.

52. There has also been a proliferation of sustainable development-related international funds and delivery channels. They include global sector funds, premised on multi-stakeholder partnerships that bring together Governments, private sector, civil society, and traditional and emerging donors, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the GAVI Alliance, and the Global Partnership for Education.

53. Only 10 years ago, multilateral climate finance was provided by a small number of large funds, which were associated with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. There are now over 50 international public funds. Over this period, Governments designed and reformed institutions such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Adaptation Fund, the Climate Investment Funds, and most recently the Green Climate Fund, and new evolving financial instruments such as performance-based payments for reducing emissions from deforestation, degradation and forest conservation. Nonetheless, there remains a large gap between climate finance needs and resources. In particular, progress towards implementing the financial commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has been slow.

54. South-South cooperation — a complement to North-South cooperation — continues to grow rapidly, more than doubling between 2006 and 2011. While data on concessional South-South flows is incomplete, they are estimated at between $16.1 and $19 billion in 2011, representing more than 10 per cent of global public finance flows. Non-concessional South-South flows, such as foreign direct investment or bank loans, have also expanded dramatically in recent years (see E/2014/77).

International trade and cross-border private finance

55. Global trade also continues to grow, albeit at a slower pace than before the international financial and economic crisis, and trade flows have assumed increased importance for resource mobilization in many developing countries. For least developed countries, the average trade-to-GDP ratio has risen from 38 per cent in 1990 to 70 per cent in 2011. The rise of global value chains in trade has tightened the link between trade and investment flows.

56. Gross flows of foreign direct investment to developing countries reached $778 billion in 2013, exceeding foreign direct investment to developed economies. Foreign direct investment is the most stable and long-term source of private sector foreign investment. However, least developed countries receive only a small fraction (less than 2 per cent) of these flows. In sub-Saharan Africa, foreign direct investment is driven primarily by investment in extractive industries, with limited linkages to the rest of the economy. Furthermore, the contribution of foreign direct investment to sustainable development is not uniform. In recent years, the composition of foreign direct investment appears to be changing. For example, globally, investment in finance and real estate increased from 28 per cent in 1985 to nearly 50 per cent of total foreign direct investment in 2011, whereas investment in manufacturing fell from 43 per cent to 23 per cent over this time.

57. The nature of international portfolio investment in emerging markets has evolved over the past 15 years, as the markets of many countries have deepened and become more globally integrated. In particular, as domestic debt markets have grown, foreign investors have increased their purchases of local currency debt, and now play a dominant role in some emerging markets. However, these flows have been very volatile, reflecting a short-term orientation of international capital markets (see A/68/221). In the United States, for example, the average holding period for stocks has fallen from about eight years in the 1960s to approximately six months in 2010.

58. Private cross-border transfers from individuals and households have also grown substantially. An estimated $404 billion was remitted to developing countries from migrants in 2013, representing a more than tenfold increase in recorded remittances from 1990, when they were estimated at less than $40 billion. In addition, philanthropic finance from private individuals, foundations and other organizations to developing countries amounted to approximately $60 billion in 2013, with the majority coming from private donors in developed countries. Philanthropic actors are particularly engaged in global sectoral funds, such as in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the GAVI Alliance.

59. A portion of international inflows has been used by some countries to build foreign exchange reserves, in part as a form of self-insurance against the volatility of international capital flows. Foreign exchange reserves increased from $2.1 trillion to $11.7 trillion from 2000 to 2013. Developing countries, primarily emerging market countries, hold almost $8 trillion, with the top five emerging market countries holding about 65 per cent of this.

V. Strategic approach

60. Figure IV illustrates the analytical framework that has guided us in formulating this sustainable development financing strategy. Financial sources can be arranged into four categories: domestic public, domestic private, international public and international private sectors. The challenge for policymakers is to channel and incentivize more of these diverse and decentralized sources of financing into desired investments in sustainable development.

61. As depicted in figure IV, financing decisions, in all cases, whether public or private, are influenced by national policy frameworks and the international financial architecture, the extent of appropriate and effective financing institutions, and the design and development of instruments to facilitate and help overcome impediments to investment in sustainable development. In this spirit, the following precepts guide the strategic approach of the Committee:

1. **Ensure country ownership and leadership in implementing national sustainable development strategies, along with a supportive international environment.** Each country is responsible for its own development. The implementation of sustainable development strategies is realized on the national level. However, national efforts need to be complemented by international public support as necessary, and an enabling international environment.

2. **Adopt effective government policies as the linchpin of a sustainable development financing strategy.** All financing is done within the context of national and international policy environments that set rules, regulations and incentives for all actors. Thus, effective institutions and policies and good governance are central for the efficient use of resources and for unlocking additional resources for sustainable development.

3. **Make use of all financing flows in a holistic way.** Meeting financing needs for sustainable development requires optimizing the contribution from all flows, including public, private, domestic and international. Each type of financing has specific characteristics and strengths, based on different mandates and underlying incentives. Maximizing synergies, taking advantage of complementarities, and building on an optimal interplay of all financing sources is essential.

4. **Match financing flows with appropriate needs and uses.** Different sustainable development needs and project characteristics require different types of public, private and blended financing. While private financing will be essential, all private finance is not the same. Long-term sustainable development investments should be financed with long-term funds.

5. **Maximize the impact of international public finance.** ODA plays a crucial role for countries where needs are greatest and the capacity to raise resources is weakest. The use of financing instruments and their concessionality should be appropriate to the level of development of each country, their specific conditions, capacities and capabilities, as well as the nature of the project.

6. **Mainstream sustainable development criteria in national financing strategies.** Finance should support the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. This requires policies and incentives to incorporate sustainable development into financing strategies and implementation approaches. Sustainable development criteria should be included in public budgets and private investment decisions as appropriate.

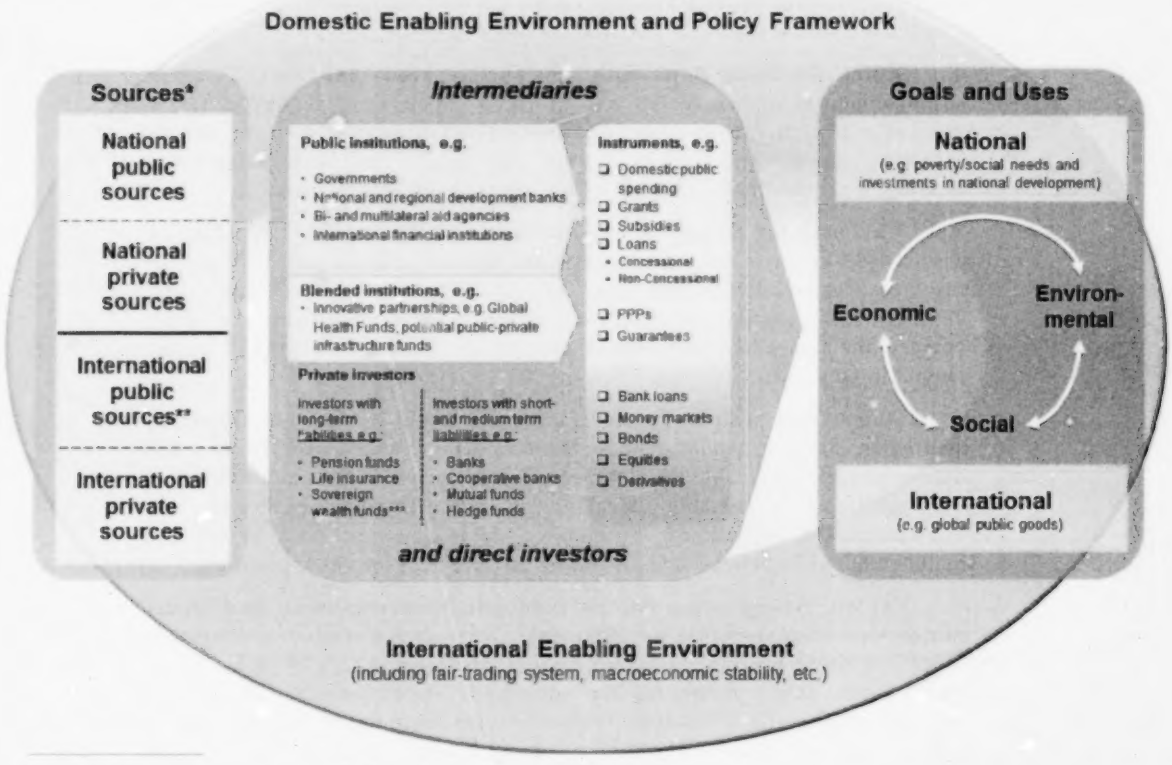
7. **Exploit synergies across the economic, environmental, and social dimensions of sustainable development.** Different sustainable development objectives often overlap. Financing should be designed to exploit synergies and support policy coherence for sustainable development, while taking account of potential trade-offs. Thus, financing instruments can be used to address several policy objectives simultaneously. This would be best coordinated within the context of national sustainable development strategies.

8. **Adopt a multi-stakeholder, people-centred and inclusive approach to achieve tangible results on the ground.** Consultations with all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, will enable Governments and policymakers to better appreciate the diverse needs and concerns of people in the formulation and implementation of sustainable development policies at all levels. In this regard, gender equality and the inclusion of marginalized groups, such as indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, must be ensured.

9. **Ensure transparency and accountability of financing at the national, regional and international levels.** Transparency and accountability must

underpin all financing to enhance legitimacy and effectiveness. Government providers of assistance and partner countries should strive for a more harmonized and coherent mutual accountability, with improved data collection and strengthened monitoring, while ensuring country ownership. Private financial flows should be monitored more effectively and made more transparent.

Figure IV
Flows of funds from international and national financing sources to sustainable development*



* The size of boxes does not represent financing volumes/importance.
** There can be cases where international public finance also directly supports the implementation of international objectives.
*** Sovereign wealth funds handle public money, but are managed like private investors.

VI. Options for an integrated sustainable development financing strategy

62. In each category of finance, decision-making is decentralized among the separate institutions and actors. Funding decisions in domestic and international private sectors are inherently dispersed among multiple actors, and the delivery of international public funds is also highly fragmented, despite efforts at coordination.

Cohesive financing strategies, based on the principle of country ownership, are thus essential to facilitating the coordination of diverse sources of financing. In the light of the cross-cutting dimensions of financing strategies, coordinated national decision-making is needed. Governments should also effectively communicate their strategic frameworks.

63. **In what follows, the Committee highlight particular policy areas pertaining to each of the four groups of financing sources, and blended finance, and suggests a toolkit of policy options and financial instruments, to be used within a cohesive national sustainable development strategy. Notwithstanding the wide range of options proposed below, the choice of specific policy measures should be determined by domestic political considerations and other country-specific circumstances.**

A. Domestic public financing

64. There are three primary roles for domestic public finance: (a) increasing equity, including through poverty reduction; (b) providing public goods and services that markets will eschew or underprovide and enacting policies to change incentives of private actors; and (c) managing macroeconomic stability. In addition, domestic resource mobilization reinforces a country's ownership of public policy and allows countries to move towards financial autonomy. National public finance strategies should reflect these motivations as they guide the implementation of sustainable development strategies.

Promote tax reform, tax compliance and deeper international cooperation

65. Domestic resource mobilization depends on many factors, such as the size of the tax base, a country's capacity to collect and administer taxes, tax elasticity, the volatility of sectors being taxed, and commodity prices. While optimal tax policy design is necessarily reflective of a country's economic and social situation, Governments should follow generally accepted principles of sound public finance management, e.g., tax systems should be fair, efficient and transparent. Governments may also prioritize real income gains at the bottom of the income distribution through progressive tax policies, such as "earned-income tax credits", and VAT exemptions on basic goods and services. More generally, the tax base should be as wide as possible, while maintaining equity and efficiency. Indeed, widening the tax base has been instrumental in recent advances in tax collection in many developing countries, including least developed countries and small island developing States. Key indicators of success in tax reform include high-level political commitment, administrative and policy reform and strong leadership in the revenue administration. Socially balanced user fees for some public services may be warranted so that beneficiaries contribute to the cost of the service, though they are not encouraged for essential social services.

66. However, there are limits to what individual Governments can accomplish on their own in the globalized economy. For example, national jurisdictions sometimes compete with other countries through offers of tax incentives to attract and hold employers, eroding the tax base of both competing countries. Ending harmful tax competition needs to be based on cooperation between competing countries, while respecting the sovereign right of countries to design their national tax regimes. This

would generally be done in a regional or international forum. Such forums can also stimulate cooperation to stem illicit financial flows, as discussed in section VII.[9]

67. Whereas, to date, technical assistance to the revenue and customs sector has attracted a minimal share of ODA, going forward more focus should be placed on responding to national requests for strengthening fiscal management capacity and capacity-building for domestic resource mobilization. In addition, examples of successful reforms can inspire policy design elsewhere. The benefits of broader international forums on tax cooperation are palpable (see section VII). Additional capacity-building efforts should target institutional capacities to collect adequate revenues from extractive industries.

68. In resource-rich countries, the management of natural resources is particularly critical. Fiscal rules governing the extractive industries should ensure that the public interest is appropriately compensated. Governments can also design policies to ensure that a share of resource earnings are saved and invested for the benefit of future generations, as in sovereign wealth funds. When tax revenues from resource extraction are volatile, Governments can accumulate surplus earnings in years of high prices and smooth government expenditures in years of low prices through commodity stabilization funds. International cooperation is needed to tackle the illicit trafficking of natural resources, including from countries in situations of conflict. Transparency and anti-corruption programmes, including voluntary initiatives, are also relevant in many cases.

Ensure good financial governance and public financial management

69. Combating corruption plays an important part in complementing efforts to improve domestic revenue mobilization. Corruption can have adverse effects on businesses, individuals and public financial management. High scores on corruption indicators are also strongly associated with low public revenue. To advance the fight against corruption, all countries should strive to ratify and implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption and should make further combined efforts, particularly on prevention, enforcement and stolen asset recovery (see section VI.C).

70. A central element of good financial governance is proper planning and execution of the budget. Generally accepted principles of good budgeting address the stages of formulation, approval, execution and audit. These principles should ensure that public spending is consistent with national sustainable development strategies, inclusive of environmental, social, economic, gender, and other goals. Planning and execution of budgets should be based on transparency, legitimacy, accountability and participation of citizens, consistent with country capabilities and circumstances. In this regard, domestic public sector internal and external control mechanisms, such as supreme audit institutions, that ensure that spending is in line with intended purposes should be implemented and strengthened. Furthermore, fiscal decentralization can strengthen local governance and create local ownership for the disposition of funds.

[9] While there is no agreed definition of illicit flows, for the purpose of the present report, it is defined as money that is illegally earned, utilized and, in either case, transferred across borders, and includes profits hidden from tax administrations.

71. It is common in normative budget policy discussions to ask if specific subsidies continue to be warranted. Countries should review the efficacy of all subsidies as a matter of sound fiscal management. Countries should consider rationalizing inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts. Such actions should fully take into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimize possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and affected communities.

72. Similarly, countries should correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including by the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.

73. Procurement systems need further strengthening in many countries to ensure fair competition. As part of budget execution, authorities may wish to align their procurement policies with national sustainable development strategies, which implies defining minimum environmental and social standards for public sector suppliers, taking into account domestic situations. In this respect, sustainable procurement can have the added benefit of promoting sustainable technologies. Public procurement systems can also promote the development of sustainable local businesses.

74. Financial auditing and control should be complemented by monitoring and evaluation of economic, social and environmental impacts, in line with country capacities and circumstances. Strengthened national and independent audit and evaluation agencies could be assigned this responsibility, as could other politically and socially anchored oversight mechanisms, including in the parliament. Capacity-development initiatives, including the exchange of knowledge and experiences, can help improve policy design, budget processes and budget implementation.

Internalize externalities and mainstream environmental sustainability

75. There is a large potential role for fiscal reforms in promoting environmental sustainability. Policy measures such as "cap and trade" and carbon taxes seek to curb carbon emissions by raising the price of emissions and "internalize externalities". Carbon markets remain relatively small, however, with only 7 per cent of the world's emissions covered. Furthermore, prices for traded emission permits have been volatile and too low to impact the development and deployment of clean technologies. Governments that set up cap and trade schemes need to set sufficiently tight caps, monitor volatility and set appropriate regulations. At the same time, 13 countries have initiated some form of national or subnational carbon taxes. Although there has been some debate on the competitiveness effects associated with taxing carbon emissions, European countries that have had carbon taxes in place for over a decade have seen neutral or slightly positive effects on GDP.

76. Governments should also consider other policies to change investment patterns, such as direct emission restrictions on investments, subsidizing research and development of clean technologies, including carbon capture and storage

technologies, tax incentives, feed-in tariffs, energy efficiency or renewable energy targets, pollution rights, and payments for ecosystem services.

77. Environmental accounting, which incorporates environmentally relevant financial flows and accounts on the use of natural resources, is another mechanism that can help policymakers internalize externalities. GDP is a crucial measure that Governments use to assess the economic performance of countries, but by not incorporating natural capital, it can lead Governments to ignore an inefficient allocation of investment. The System of Environmental-Economic Accounting could facilitate greater public investment in sustainable development.

Address inequity and the social protection imperative

78. Governments should use fiscal policies (both tax and spending) to address inequalities, fight poverty, improve water and sanitation, and support other social services, in particular to benefit low-income, vulnerable and marginalized groups. A frequent call is to give priority to public investment projects that are "pro-poor" and gender sensitive.

79. Structural vulnerabilities, which affect the poor and other socially excluded groups, women, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, migrants, minorities, children, older persons, youth and other marginalized groups, can be reduced by aiming for universal provision of basic social services.

80. In addition to offering protection against risks, social protection can contribute to equitable growth by reducing poverty and inequality, raising labour productivity, and enhancing social stability. Countries should consider policies to strengthen "social protection floors", which, in accordance with the findings of the International Labour Organization, are affordable in most countries out of domestic revenues, but warrant international assistance for the poorest. Insurance services offer further opportunities to create a safety net for households, including for example insurance products that cover health care, life risks and agriculture. However, private insurance is not usually effective at covering those most in need, so government policies remain crucial. There is also an urgent need for Governments to invest adequately in disaster risk mitigation and in systems that build resilience against shocks, as well as in environmental preservation, especially in areas where local populations depend on natural resources.

81. Productive and decent employment is the most important form of income security. Most people rely on earnings from work as their main source of income. Macroeconomic and fiscal policies that promote full and productive employment, as well as investment in human capital, are therefore central to poverty reduction and increased equity.

Effectively manage public debt

82. Debt financing can represent a viable option to provide funding for public spending on sustainable development. At the same time, debt needs to be effectively managed, with the goal of ensuring that debt obligations can be serviced under a wide range of circumstances. Governments should make regular use of analytical tools to assess alternative borrowing strategies and the associated risks, better manage their assets and liabilities, and restrain from irresponsible borrowing. Treasury departments should aim to increase the issuance of long-term bonds in

local currencies, particularly to domestic investors, as such issuance would reduce the foreign exchange risk of the government. At the same time, as agreed in the Monterrey Consensus, creditors share responsibility with the sovereign debtor to prevent and resolve debt crises, including providing debt relief where appropriate. They should be held responsible to adequately assess credit risk, improve credit screening and reduce irresponsible lending to high-risk countries.

83. The international financial institutions and the United Nations system have been developing standards for prudent management of government debt. Countries that have already reached a high level of debt need to ensure that the growth of public debt does not exceed expected GDP growth to avoid financial distress. In this regard, the World Bank-IMF Debt Sustainability Framework is designed to help guide low-income countries and their donors in mobilizing financing while reducing the chances of an excessive build-up of debt by setting a debt threshold. In addition, international institutions are providing technical assistance to strengthen local capacities in this area. This should be maintained, along with commitments to transfer finance, technology and capacity to enable developing countries to build the human and institutional capabilities to effectively manage public debt (see section VII for a discussion of systemic issues and sovereign debt resolutions).

Explore the potential contributions of national development banks

84. In the absence of sufficient long-term private sector financing and investment in sustainable development, many countries have established national development banks and other public institutions to support long-term investment. The combined assets of the International Development Finance Club, a group of 20 national, bilateral and regional development banks, amount to over $2.1 trillion in 2010. National development banks can play an important role, for example, in financing small and medium-sized enterprises, infrastructure and innovation. As national development banks have specific knowledge of domestic markets, they are often well suited to provide relevant capacity development and assistance in private project management. Recent studies have also shown that some national development banks also played a valuable countercyclical role, especially in cases of crisis when private sector entities become highly risk-averse.

85. Governments can use national development banks to strengthen capital markets and leverage investments in sustainable development. For example, some national development banks finance (part of) their activities through the issuance of bonds that allocate funds raised to a particular use, such as green infrastructure with the proceeds allocated to specific classes of investment (e.g., green bonds).

86. There are, however, challenges for policymakers with regard to new development banks. Policymakers should ensure that public development banks do not undertake activities that the private sector will competitively provide. Importantly, provisions should be in place to avoid inappropriate political interference with the operation of the bank, and to ensure efficient use of resources, particularly with regard to leveraging private sector investment in sustainable development.

B. Domestic private financing

87. In understanding the role of the private sector in financing sustainable development, it is important to recognize that the private sector includes a wide range of diverse actors, from households to multinational corporations and from direct investors to financial intermediaries, such as banks and pension funds. Private resources have historically been a key driver of domestic growth and job creation.

88. Private financing is profit-oriented, making it particularly well suited for productive investment. However, the quality of investment matters. There continues to be a dearth of domestic long-term investment necessary for sustainable development, even while there is a growing understanding among the private sector that commercial interest and public policy goals can be realized at the same time.

89. There is thus a role for Governments to develop policies to help incentivize greater long-term investment in sustainable development. An enabling environment is essential for reducing risks and encouraging private investment. In addition, Governments can work to develop local capital markets and financial systems for long-term investment, within a sound regulatory framework.

Provide access to financial services for households and microenterprises

90. Recent studies indicate that stable, inclusive and efficient financial markets have the potential to improve peoples' lives by reducing transaction costs, spurring economic activity, and improving delivery of other social benefits, particularly for women. Expanding the scope and scale of financial services offered to the poor, older persons, women, persons with disabilities, indigenous people and other underserved populations is important to help achieve sustainable development objectives.

91. Households of all income levels, even the poorest, use basic financial services, namely payments, savings, credit and insurance. The poor, particularly those in least developed countries, use mainly informal financial service providers. Indeed, more than half of the working-age adults in the world are currently "unbanked" by formal providers, with the vast majority in developing countries. If affordable and appropriate financial services were available at reasonable proximity, all indications are that people would use them. Many Governments have thus provided and/or welcomed providers of financial services for the poor, including through microfinance institutions, cooperative banks, postal banks and savings banks, as well as commercial banks.

92. The best way to implement financial inclusion varies by country. Nonetheless, there are some elements that have worked well across countries, including support for the development of credit bureaux for assessing borrower loan-carrying capacity. Developments in information and communication technologies can make it possible for poor people to receive financial services at low cost without having to travel long distances to bank branches. Branchless banking and mobile banking technologies can be used in making government-to-people payments (wage, pension and social welfare payments) with lower administrative costs and less leakages. Bringing more people into the formal financial sector is believed to also have a beneficial effect on tax collection. Furthermore, regulation is important to ensure responsible digital finance and avoid abusive practices.

93. Surveys demonstrate that a lack of awareness of financial products and institutions is a barrier to their utilization, particularly for insurance. The public sector can promote strengthened financial capability, including financial literacy, while also expanding consumer protection. In particular, financial service providers should be required to disclose key information in a clear and understandable, preferably uniform, format. Policymakers should also enact clear standards for treating consumers fairly and ethically, and set up uniform recourse mechanisms for effective resolution of disputes across the industry. In this regard, Governments might establish consumer protection agencies to oversee the necessary framework for consumer protection within a country context.

94. Although it is only one aspect of financial inclusion, a good deal of attention has been paid to microfinance. There is a wide global network of forums and international support networks in the public and non-profit microfinance sectors, which speaks to the vibrancy of the industry. Nonetheless, microfinance remains outside the regulatory framework in many countries. With the growth of microfinance institutions, both managers and regulators should be concerned about the need to balance expanding access to financial services with managing risks, including social risks of household indebtedness.

Promote lending to small and medium-sized enterprises

95. An important area where access to financial services (in this case, credit) is insufficient relates to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which in many countries are main drivers of innovation, employment and growth. More than 200 million SMEs lack access to financial services worldwide. Frequently, the financial needs of SMEs are too large for the traditional moneylenders and microcredit agencies, while large banks tend to bypass this market, owing to administrative intensity, the lack of information and the uncertainty of credit risk. By providing credit information, credit registries/bureaux, and collateral and insolvency regimes could help extend SME access to credit.

96. Long-term bond markets are limited in many developing countries, and alternative vehicles for financing innovative start-ups, such as angel investors and venture capital funds, are largely missing in many developing countries. National development banks can play an important role here. To support greater access to finance for SMEs, a calibrated interplay of private and public banks can also be used. For example, one model used by development banks is to provide concessional public funding to the commercial banking sector, which on-lends the funds at a preferential rate for SMEs. Instruments can encompass guarantees, loans, interest-rate subsidies, equity and equity-linked investments as well as access to services and information. Many countries also maintain other forms of support for SMEs, such as low-interest government loan programmes. Cooperative banks, post banks and savings banks are also well suited to offer financial services to SMEs, including developing and offering more diversified loan products.

97. Lending to SMEs is considered high risk by many bankers owing to lack of information and uncertainty of credit risk. Credit is often insufficient, even when there is ample liquidity in the banking sector. However, a diversified portfolio of SME loans can significantly reduce risks. Securitization of diverse portfolios of SME loans, potentially sourced across a variety of banks to ensure greater diversification, can potentially increase funds available for SME lending. However,

safeguards need to be in place to address risks in "lend-to-distribute" banking, as highlighted during the financial crisis, so that the issuer maintains a stake in keeping the loans performing (such as rules that require banks to maintain a percentage of each loan on their balance sheets).

Develop financial markets for long-term investment and enhancing regulations to balance access and stability

98. A well-capitalized banking sector and long-term bond markets allow domestic companies to meet their longer-term financing needs — without taking foreign exchange risks associated with borrowing in foreign currency. Local bond markets can thus play an important role in financing long-term sustainable development. To successfully develop local capital markets, policymakers need to build institutions and infrastructure, including supervision, clearing and settlement systems, effective credit bureaux, measures to safeguard consumers, and other appropriate regulation.

99. Institutional investors, particularly those with long-term liabilities, such as pension funds, life insurance companies, endowments, and sovereign wealth funds are particularly well suited to provide long-term finance (though international institutional investors have tended to invest with a short-term time horizon in recent decades, see section VI.D). To nurture the development of an institutional investor base, policymakers need to develop an institutional, legal and regulatory framework. This includes securities laws, asset management regulations, and consumer protection. Policymakers could provide rules for transparent processes, sound governance, and an efficient enforcement system. There are numerous examples of successful regulatory frameworks from developed and emerging market countries, though policymakers in developing countries should adapt these to local conditions, and be flexible to update them in response to changing market conditions.

100. In general, financial markets need to be developed with care as bond and equity markets often demonstrate high volatility, especially in small markets that lack liquidity. To limit excessive volatility that can impact the real economy, regulations can be enacted in conjunction with capital account management tools to deter "hot money". In some areas, developing a regional market might be effective in achieving a scale and depth not attainable in individual small markets. Partnerships between nascent markets and established global financial centres can support the transfer of skills, knowledge and technology to developing countries, though care should be taken to adapt them to local conditions.

101. On the flipside, it is important to note that the financial sector can grow too large relative to the domestic economy. Above certain thresholds financial sector growth may increase inequality and instability, owing in part to excessive credit growth and asset price bubbles. It is therefore important for all countries to design strong "macroprudential" regulatory frameworks.

102. A robust regulatory framework should consider all areas of financial intermediation, including shadow banking, ranging from microfinance to complex derivative instruments. Enhancing stability and reducing risks while promoting access to credit presents a complex challenge for policymakers, since there can be trade-offs between the two. Policymakers should design the regulatory and policy framework to strike a balance between these goals. For example, the European Union included special provisions (e.g., Capital Requirement Directive IV) in its implementation of Basel III to reduce the capital cost of lending to SMEs. There are

also calls for financial sector regulatory systems to be widened from focusing on financial stability to include sustainability criteria.

103. Islamic finance has also generated important mechanisms that can support sustainable development financing. Islamic financial assets have grown rapidly in the last decade, including in the areas of infrastructure financing, social investments and green investments. The investment vehicles used in Islamic finance, which are based on shared business risk, improve depth and breadth of financial markets by providing alternative sources of financing. These financing structures might offer lessons on how to develop a class of new long-term investment.

Strengthen the enabling environment

104. It is well known that strengthening the domestic policy, legal, regulatory and institutional environment is an effective way for Governments to encourage private investment. To better mobilize and effectively use finance, policy measures should focus on easing the bottlenecks within the country context. As a result of such efforts over the past decade, many developing countries have reduced excessive complexity and cost that businesses pay to start and maintain operations. While the structure of reforms varies between countries and regions in line with their historical experience, culture and politics, policymakers can strengthen the enforceability of contracts, the protection of creditor and debtor rights and the effectiveness of trade and competition policies, streamline business registration regimes, and promote the rule of law, human rights and effective security. Investment in infrastructure and essential public services, as well as human capital, would also help to make the business environment more attractive. Political instability, macroeconomic instability and policy uncertainty are significant obstacles to doing business in any country, underlining the importance of sound policies more broadly.

Strengthen economic, environmental, social and governance and sustainability considerations in the financial system

105. Policymakers should aim to foster sustainability considerations in all institutions and at all levels. This can be done by encouraging joint reporting on both economic returns and environmental, social and governance impacts — which can be referred to as economic, environmental, social and governance (EESG) reporting. In addition, appropriate regulations, such as portfolio requirements and other measures in line with domestic conditions can be used to strengthen these considerations.

106. There are signs of a strengthened focus on EESG considerations in some financial markets. Increasing numbers of private sector actors have signed on to the Equator Principles for project financiers, Principles for Responsible Investment, and Principles for Sustainable Insurance, which set standards for private investors. Similarly, the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative aims to explore how exchanges can work with investors, regulators, and companies to enhance corporate transparency, report performance on EESG issues, and encourage responsible long-term approaches to investment. Knowledge of these initiatives within many businesses and financial institutions remains limited. It is thus important to scale up awareness and capacity-building, in both public institutions and financial market firms. In this regard, Governments could encourage financial market firms to train

their employees on EESG issues, which could be included in qualifying exams and courses for industry licences.

107. An important consideration in sustainable development is the emissions impact of financing activities. In this context, some pension funds, albeit relatively smaller funds, have begun to monitor the emissions of their portfolios on a voluntary basis, allowing fund managers to recognize the risks they are already bearing. Policymakers could play a catalytic role in this area by encouraging index providers to accelerate work on the design of benchmarks and encouraging transparency regarding emissions impact, particularly in public investment funds (e.g., public pension funds).

108. A key question is whether largely voluntary initiatives can change the way financial institutions make investment decisions. Policymakers could consider creating regulatory frameworks that make some of these practices mandatory. To be most effective, these policies should be based on extensive engagement between the private sector, civil society, financial regulators, and policymakers. In this regard, several countries have already mandated some ESG criteria, including South Africa, Brazil, Malaysia, France and the United Kingdom, among others. More research should be done on the impact of different mechanisms. International organizations can create a platform for sharing experiences on both successes and failures of various instruments and arrangements.

C. International public financing

109. International public finance plays a central role in financing sustainable development. Similar to domestic public finance, there are three functions of international public finance: poverty eradication and development; financing the provision of regional and global public goods; and maintaining global macroeconomic stability within the context of the broader global enabling environment (see section VII). International public finance should complement and facilitate national efforts in these areas, and will remain indispensable in implementing sustainable development. ODA in particular will remain critical and should be focused where needs are greatest and the capacity to raise resources is weakest.

Meet existing commitments

110. ODA remains an important source of external public financing for developing countries, particularly least developed countries. ODA reached record levels in 2013, though it still remains significantly below the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI), averaging 0.3 per cent of GNI in 2013. Similarly, despite commitments to allocate 0.15-0.20 per cent of GNI as ODA to least developed countries in the Istanbul Programme of Action, ODA to least developed countries amounts to only 0.09 per cent of GNI, on average.

111. In 2010, at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, it was agreed that developed countries committed, in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation, to a goal of mobilizing jointly $100 billion dollars per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries, which will be drawn by a wide variety of sources (public, private, bilateral, multilateral, including alternative sources).

112. States Members of the United Nations should honour their commitments in full and in a timely manner, and neither ignore nor dilute them. Member States should in particular acknowledge the large financing gaps in least developed countries and other vulnerable countries. Further efforts are needed to maintain and increase ODA allocated to least developed countries and those most in need.

Make use of all international public financing sources and instruments

113. A number of Governments have joined together to develop innovative mechanisms to mobilize additional international concessional resources for development and poverty eradication. The international community should further explore innovative mechanisms, with a view to financing global sustainable development (see section IV.C).

114. South-South cooperation, as a complement to North-South cooperation, is a diverse and increasingly important category of voluntary intergovernmental assistance that can facilitate sustainable development, in accordance with the Nairobi outcome document of the United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (2009), endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/222. A number of South providers of assistance have decided to further strengthen their work, including inter alia through additional evidence-based analysis of South-South cooperation experiences and evaluation of South-South cooperation programmes. Additionally, the High-Level Committee of South-South Cooperation adopted decision 18/1 (2014), which makes recommendations regarding the United Nations system, including an invitation for the Secretary-General to include in his synthesis report concrete steps to further strengthen South-South cooperation.

115. Trianguiar cooperation is a further useful complement, which has the potential to improve the effectiveness of development cooperation through sharing of knowledge, experience, technology and financial resources from emerging economies and traditional donor countries.

116. International public funds that are less concessional than ODA, such as some loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the other international and regional financial institutions (IFIs), are key sources of medium- and long-term finance for the countries that draw upon them. Important financing modalities include public loans to Governments, equity and debt finance for the private sector and a range of blended financing instruments, including risk-mitigating instruments such as credit and political risk guarantees, currency swaps and arrangements combining public and capital market funds (e.g., on traditional infrastructure projects). When employed according to country and sector needs, and building on their specific advantages, they can help mitigate risk and mobilize more upfront financing than would be available from budget resources alone, as discussed in section VI.E on blended finance. It is also important to ensure that least developed countries are not prevented from accessing, solely on the basis of their income, less concessional funds from IFIs and development finance institutions. Financially viable projects should instead be considered on a case-by-case basis, while keeping in mind debt sustainability considerations (see figure V).

Use international public resources efficiently and effectively

117. International public finance ultimately represents taxpayer funds, putting an extra burden on both concessional and non-concessional public financial

intermediaries to deploy them efficiently and effectively. ODA should be focused where needs are greatest and the capacity to raise resources is weakest, including least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and the poorest in all developing countries, with a sufficient portion of ODA concentrated on the eradication of extreme poverty, as well as the reduction of all forms of poverty and meeting other basic social needs.

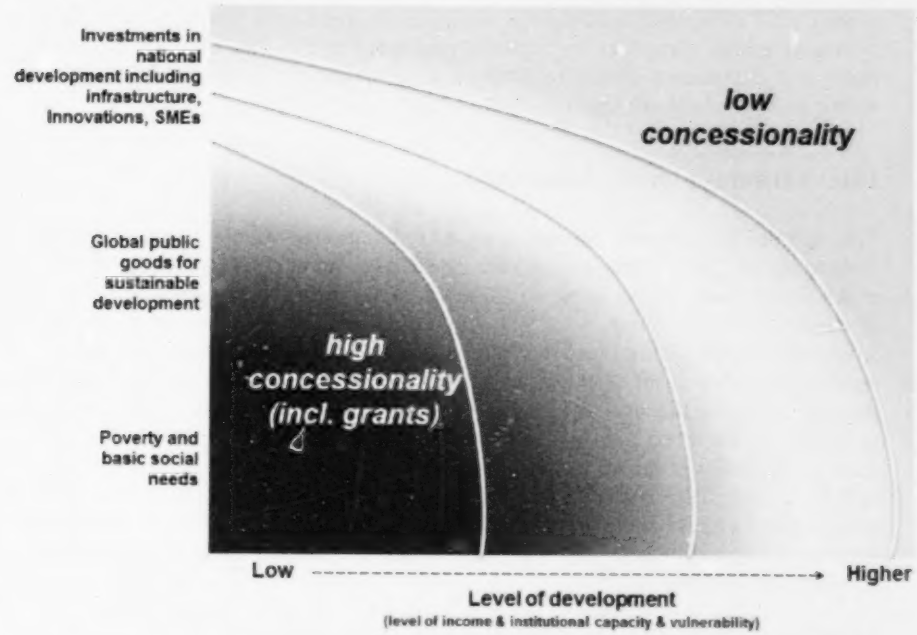
118. International public finance will also have an important role in financing investments in national development, such as infrastructure. Some of these investments are profitable, and international public finance can catalyse private financing for sustainable development in such areas (see section VI.E on blended finance). In conjunction with this, international public finance should also respond to the growing need for financing for global public goods, without crowding out traditional development assistance.

119. Acknowledging the multiple roles that international public finance will need to play in the sustainable development agenda, the Committee recommends that the level of concessionality of international public finance should take into account both countries' level of development (including their level of income, institutional capacity, and vulnerability) and the type of investment, as depicted in figure V. Concessionality should be highest for basic social needs, including grant financing appropriate for least developed countries. Concessional financing is also critical for financing many global public goods for sustainable development. For some investments in national development, loan financing instruments might be more appropriate, particularly when the investment can potentially generate an economic return.

120. The international community has had on its agenda for many years a commitment to boost the effectiveness of development cooperation, through strengthened mutual accountability in the relationship between an ODA-receiving country and its donors. This, among others, is a concern of the Development Cooperation Forum of the United Nations, established in 2007. Through its regular multistakeholder dialogues and policy analysis, the Forum provides guidance, inter alia, on how to manage international financial and technical cooperation for development more effectively. The pursuit of effectiveness was further marked by four meetings of the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Rome (2003), Paris (2005), Accra (2008) and Busan (2011), which led to the establishment of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. The first High-Level Meeting of the Partnership was held in April 2014 in Mexico City.

Figure V

Indicative targeting of international public financing according to countries' levels of development and different sustainable development needs


Investments in national development including infrastructure, innovations, SMEs
low concessionality
Global public goods for sustainable development
high concessionality (incl. grants)
Poverty and basic social needs
Low
Higher
Level of development
(level of income & institutional capacity & vulnerability)

121. A further concern raised in the Committee with respect to development effectiveness relates to the fragmentation of international public financing and the decentralized and independent decision-making processes of bilateral and multilateral donors. Donor countries should improve the management and coordination of international public support, through increased joint planning and programming on the basis of country-led strategies and coordination arrangements. They have long sought to reduce the burden of disparate reporting requirements, compliance with which absorbs considerable resources in the receiving country. The call thus continues to go out for transparent and harmonized financing conditions, procedures and methodologies.

122. In order to reduce the fragmentation and complexity of environmental and climate finance, in particular, effective rationalization of the overall architecture is needed. In the area of climate finance, the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change agreed to establish the Green Climate Fund as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention under article 11. It will serve as a multilateral instrument through which Governments and other fund providers could channel grants and concessional loan resources to support projects, programmes, policies and other activities in developing countries. A significant share of new multilateral funding for climate change adaptation should flow through the Green Climate Fund, as agreed at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

123. At the same time, partner capacities need to be strengthened in order to better manage assistance from diverse providers, as part of their national sustainable development financing strategies. Countries should jointly create and use facilitative platforms to encourage operational coordination among international funds and initiatives. Funds and programmes, including environmental funds, need to support synergies across sectors at the national and local levels. The rules of the existing funds and instruments should be adapted to ensure that they encompass all relevant activities in a synergistic way.

D. International private financing

124. Similar to domestic private finance, international private finance contains a wide range of flows, including foreign direct investment (FDI), portfolio flows and cross-border bank loans. Some of these flows are blended with public finance as discussed below (section VI.E). International institutional investors, including sovereign wealth funds, hold an estimated $80 trillion to 90 trillion in assets, representing an enormous potential source of investment. However, to date their investment in sustainable development — in both developed and developing countries — has been low. Pension funds, for example, invest only 3 per cent of their global assets in infrastructure. This highlights the need for government policies to help to overcome obstacles to private investment, in conjunction with additional public spending. As such, many issues discussed under domestic private finance (section VI.B) apply here as well, but this section focuses on issues particular to cross-border investments.

Channel international funds towards long-term investment in sustainable development

125. FDI remains the most stable and long-term source of private foreign investment to developing countries, and has a critical role to play in financing sustainable development. However, policymakers need to monitor the quality of FDI to maximize its impact on sustainable development. Governments should, as appropriate, adopt policies that encourage linkages between multinational enterprises and local production activities, support technology transfer, provide local workers with opportunities for further education, and strengthen the capacity of local industry to effectively absorb and apply new technology. Corporations that embrace human rights principles, labour, environment and anti-corruption values, as in the Global Compact or other international social and environmental standards, may serve as a model for other enterprises. At the same time, host Governments should require all companies, including foreign investors, to meet the core labour standards of the International Labour Organization, and encourage EESG reporting, making sustainable development an essential element in company strategies.

126. Investors are unlikely to invest long term in countries where they have concerns about policy and regulatory regimes, highlighting the importance of an enabling environment, as discussed in section VI.B on domestic investment. Furthermore, investors often point out that a major impediment to investment is the lack of "bankable projects" competitive with other investment opportunities, underscoring the need for capacity development for project preparation in many countries.

127. At the same time, investors — including those with long-term liabilities, such as pension funds, life insurers, and SWFs — have been hesitant to invest in long-term sustainable development projects across a wide range of policy and regulatory regimes. One impediment is that many investors do not have the capacity to do the necessary due diligence to invest directly in infrastructure and other long-term assets. Instead, when they do make these investments, they do so through financial intermediaries, whose liabilities and incentive structures tend to be shorter-term (see figure IV for a breakdown of long-term and shorter-term investors).[10] If long-term investors were to bypass intermediaries and invest directly, they could adopt a longer-term horizon in their investment decisions. However, it is often not cost-effective for diversified investors to build this expertise in-house. There is thus a need for new instruments in this area. For example, investor groups could build joint platforms, e.g., for sustainable infrastructure investments. This is already beginning to happen (e.g., South African pension funds setting up a jointly owned infrastructure fund). Public actors, such as multilateral and bilateral development finance institutions, can also help to set up investment platforms, as discussed in section VI.E on pooled financing.

128. In addition, policies can be designed to lengthen investment horizons, such as through a reduction of the use of mark-to-market accounting for long-term investments (in which portfolio valuations are adjusted daily, thus incorporating short-term volatility into portfolios) and changes to performance measurement and compensation (to change incentives, and potentially incorporate sustainability criteria), among others.

Manage volatility of risk associated with short-term cross-border capital flows

129. While private capital flows to developing countries have risen during the past decade, some types of flows remain highly volatile. Conventional approaches to managing volatile cross-border capital flows have focused on macroeconomic policies to enhance an economy's capacity to absorb inflows. However, these policies are often not sufficiently targeted to stabilize financial flows and may have undesired side effects. Policymakers should thus consider a toolkit of instruments to manage capital inflows, including macroprudential and capital market regulations, as well as direct capital account management.

130. In addition, international coordination of monetary policies of the major economies and management of global liquidity can reduce global risks. Similarly, stronger regional cooperation and dialogue, and regional economic and financial monitoring mechanisms can help stabilize private capital flows at a regional level.

Facilitate the flow of remittances and private development assistance

131. Migrant remittances represent a large source of international financial flows to some developing countries. However, remittances fundamentally differ from other financial flows in that they represent a private transaction and are often based on family and social ties. Remittances enable households to increase consumption and invest in education, health care and housing. Policymakers and IFIs should explore

[10] While large fund managers manage more liquid portfolios in-house, most investors use external managers for such investments.

innovative approaches to incentivize investment of remittances in productive activities, including through issuance of diaspora bonds.

132. The cost of remitting funds, however, remains extremely high, at 8.4 per cent of the amount transferred. Increased cooperation between remitting and receiving countries should aim to further reduce the transaction costs and barriers for remittances. The G20 initiative to lower the cost of remittances is an important effort in this regard, and should be continued and strengthened. However, there is some evidence that international banks are reducing their role in this sector, as an unintended consequence of a closer monitoring of banks in response to money-laundering. Policy measures might be needed to ensure competition and monitor costs.

133. Philanthropy, i.e., voluntary activity by foundations, private citizens and other non-state actors, has also significantly expanded in its scope, scale and sophistication. It has provided significant resources for global health funds in particular (see section VI.C). In addition to financial resources, philanthropy provides intellectual capital, technical capacity and extensive experience. Better data on philanthropic flows could help better assess their impact, improve coordination and help to streamline financing, reduce overlap, and maximize their sustainable development impact.

E. Blended finance

134. Policymakers have recently shown considerable interest in a class of development financing opportunities called "blended finance" that pool public and private resources and expertise. Blended finance encompasses a large portfolio of potential instruments, including instruments provided by DFIs to leverage private finance (e.g., loans, equity investments, guarantees, etc.), as well as traditional public private partnerships (PPPs) (see table 1 below). But it goes beyond these structures to encompass structured public-private funds and innovative "implementing partnerships" between a wide range of stakeholders — including Governments, civil society, philanthropic institutions, development banks and private for-profit institutions. When well designed, blended finance allows Governments to leverage official funds with private capital, sharing risks and returns, while still pursuing national social, environmental and economic goals in areas of public concern.

135. It is important to note, however, that poorly designed PPPs and other blended structures can lead to high returns for the private partner, while the public partner retains all the risks. Careful consideration needs to be given to the appropriate use and structure of blended finance instruments, as discussed below.

Strategically assess the use of blended financing and innovative partnerships

136. Blended finance can be a useful financing tool when the overall benefit of a project or investment is sufficiently large that an attractive benefit is still available to the public sector after the private partner is compensated. It can be used in a range of areas, such as infrastructure projects and innovation. There is a strong case for blended financing to facilitate investments that are just below the margin of real or perceived commercial viability, and cannot be unlocked by an enabling policy and institutional environment alone, but also serve public interest. On the other

hand, blended finance between the public and for-profit private sector is less well suited to contribute to the provision of basic development needs that do not offer an economic return.

137. Blended finance projects should be transparent and accountable. Participation in projects should be selected in a fair and open process. To further improve their sustainable developmental impact, poverty, environment and gender aspects should be addressed in the project design phase.

138. In undertaking blended finance projects, project costs need to be carefully assessed. Private investors often demand upward of 20-25 per cent annual returns on "bankable projects" in developing countries. These costs need to be offset by efficiency gains or other benefits to make their use attractive. Furthermore, projects often struggle to deliver as planned, in both developed and developing countries, with a 25-35 per cent failure rate of PPPs in developed countries owing to delays, cost overruns and other factors, and even higher failures in developing countries. It is therefore important for policymakers to engage in blended finance structures with careful planning, design and management in order to strike a balance between economic and non-economic returns, and to ensure fair returns to citizens. Significant capacity is needed to design workable structures that share the risks and rewards fairly. ODA and other forms of assistance can play a role in capacity-building of developing countries in this regard.

139. Engagement in isolated PPPs, managed in silos, should be avoided. The investing public entity should carry out a number of projects simultaneously and thereby take a portfolio approach for pooling funds for multiple projects, similar to risk diversification carried out by Development Finance Institutions and the private sector. In such an approach, mechanisms with equity "upside" would allow for gains from successful investments to compensate for losses on failed projects. This would be particularly appropriate for investments in innovation, where both risks and returns are extremely high.

Table 1
Blended Finance Instruments

Category	*Description*	*Examples*		*Prevalence*
Loans	• Majority of ODA-eligible, bilateral loans are provided from Government to Government for investments in economic infrastructure and water and sanitation infrastructure, and are provided to middle-income countries			High
	• Development finance institutions also make loans directly to the private sector. While many such institutions operate below a commercial rate of return, the majority of their activity is not ODA eligible			
Direct market interventions	• A direct transfer of resources from donors to the private sector, either through grants, or through equity investment	Viability gap funding	Financial contribution to make investment commercially viable	Low
		Challenge funds and innovation ventures	Competitive process to award funding for innovative projects, and to support expansion to scale for those proving success	Medium
		Equity	Transfer of resources in return for an ownership stake	Low/ medium
		First-loss funding	Funding generally designated as a subordinate equity interest	Low
Risk-based instruments	• Donors take on some portion of the risks associated with private sector or partner government activity. Credit is thereby made available, or the cost of credit is reduced	Credit guarantees	Provision to protect financier from default	Low
		Political-risk insurance	Protection against select (rare but costly) policy-oriented risks	Low
Performance-based instruments	• Future commitments by Governments or donors to transfer resources to the private sector upon pre-specified conditions being met.	Advanced market commitments (AMCs)	An ex-ante commitment for public purchase of supply	Pilot
	• Provide the private sector with flexibility in delivering outcomes (rather than outputs) and can, for example, facilitate credible government commitment to payment schedules when there are large upfront private sector investments required	Social or development impact bonds	Contingent contract with a particular investor for repayment on delivery of impact-based results	Pilot

Category	*Description*	*Examples*	*Prevalence*
Public private partnerships	• A modality of cooperation with the private sector based on a combination of instruments or negotiated outcomes • Require other inputs (such as experience, expertise and bankable projects) in addition to the employment of the financial instruments listed • Donors can facilitate PPPs by: ○ Providing technical assistance and/or project preparation facilities that offer support to both government and the private sector ○ Directing multilateral organizations to bolster their efforts at facilitating PPPs ○ Providing other financial incentives to make PPPs more attractive		Medium

140. In addition, innovative partnerships have been developed to finance sustainable development, and particularly global public goods. For example, the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, pools philanthropy, traditional public sector and innovative financing and has further used innovative governing structures and allocation mechanisms to provide targeted assistance.

Explore the potential contributions of Development Finance Institutions in support of blended finance

141. Development Finance Institutions, both multilateral and bilateral, can play an important role in blended finance. They should continue to make efforts to optimize their balance sheets and make full use of their risk bearing ability, including by the use of all instruments, such as concessional/blended loans, equity, guarantees as well as non-concessional financing and innovative instruments. If these instruments are used to overcome existing financial barriers, they can have a considerable impact on the mobilization and use of private funds for sustainable development.

142. As discussed in section VI.D on private international finance, in areas where impediments to direct investment exist, including infrastructure, innovation and SMSEs, there is a need for new financing structures that can better pool and share investment risks, along with increased public financing. Such platforms can be national or global. At the national level, the United Kingdom recently developed a Pensions Infrastructure Platform that will facilitate investment from British pension funds in public infrastructure projects backed by the United Kingdom Treasury. Similarly, the French Caisse des dépôts et consignations has been converting households' savings deposited in a specific savings account (Livret A) to fund social housing projects as well as local government infrastructure projects.

143. In addition to pooling funds, these types of platforms pool expertise and knowledge between investors and the government, and help to overcome some of the informational constraints that impede direct investment. Other countries could consider creating similar platforms within existing Development Finance Institutions and/or stand-alone platforms or country funds. In addition, entities with high credit ratings can also issue long-term (e.g., 20-30 year) bond financing to leverage these structures, which can facilitate investment by long-term funds that are unable to invest directly. Similarly, the World Bank is developing a Global Infrastructure Facility (GIF) which will seek to mobilize additional resources and leverage these in support of infrastructure investments, including through complementary measures to strengthen the policy and regulatory environments and improve project quality. The African Development Bank has launched the Africa50 Infrastructure Fund.

Strengthen capacity development efforts

144. Blended finance valuations and contracts are typically complex and require significant public sector capacity for design, negotiation and implementation. Public institutions need to build and cultivate expertise and capacity accordingly, and that is where ODA can make a critical contribution. Project preparation funds would also need to be commensurately increased. The preparation of robust feasibility studies, which multilateral and bilateral DFIs could support, is critical to the successful costing, structuring and delivery of these mechanisms. Capacity-building efforts should focus on feasibility studies, negotiation of complex contracts, and the

professional management of partnership activities. Efforts should, however, aim to develop local skills and capacity, rather than exclusively focusing on specific projects. Appropriate enabling environments need to be created as well. International development actors and governments could establish policy dialogues to build a knowledge base and "skills bank", and to share information and lessons learned about blended finance at the national, regional and/or global level. Increased cooperation and dialogue with investors, bankers and companies would also be needed.

VII. Global governance for financing sustainable development

145. To mobilize the financing detailed in the preceding section and to facilitate its effective use according to national priorities, it is necessary to have an adequate enabling international environment and policy architecture that provides the policy space necessary to implement effective national sustainable development strategies. This entails open and dynamic world trading and investment systems that are deemed fair to all, support sustainable development and poverty reduction and that respect social and environmental standards. An enabling international environment that reduces fragmentation and complexity of international public finance (including environmental finance) would ensure adequate capitalization of exiting funds and simplification and harmonization of rules for international public funds (see section VI.C). It could expand international cooperation on innovative financing, particularly with regard to global public goods. An enabling international environment includes active global cooperation to remove the sources of international financial volatility, while striving to reduce global financial fragility. Other actions include completing ongoing reform processes of development banks and IMF, deepening international cooperation on taxes and illicit flows, regulating banks and shadow banking systems and strengthening the means for cooperatively resolving sovereign debt difficulties. In short, it entails a strengthened global partnership for sustainable development.

Strengthen systemic coherence and global economic governance

146. The global economic environment is overseen by separate and sometimes uncoordinated international bodies. Reflecting its existing mandate, the United Nations has the ability to serve as the global forum to bring the specialized international institutions and authorities together without challenging their respective mandates and governance processes. There is also a need within the United Nations system to reinforce the coherence of financing frameworks that developed out of two major strands of development debate — the post-Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development and the post-Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio, means of implementation. More broadly, there is a need to strengthen the integration and harmonization of existing international mechanisms, frameworks and instruments, including through the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, while avoiding the proliferation of new support vehicles as much as possible.

147. The effectiveness and legitimacy of international organizations also needs to be further strengthened. The IFIs, including the World Bank and the other international development banks, and specialized mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, have the potential to increase the

mobilization and deployment of finance for sustainable development, and to facilitate learning and knowledge sharing within their respective mandates. They would also be well placed to significantly expand the use of risk sharing instruments. It is important for IFIs to continue to take steps to align their own business practices with sustainable development objectives. Other proposed initiatives, such as reserve pooling and trade facilitation mechanisms, also have roles to play. The international community will benefit from such experimentation and innovation.

148. In addition, a further review of the governance regimes of the IFIs is necessary to update their decision-making processes, modus operandi and priorities, and to make them more democratic and representative. IMF and the World Bank have been making efforts to further integrate the voices of emerging market and developing countries, to reflect their growing importance in the global finance and development arena. These efforts should be brought to fruition.

149. The normative, analytical and operational activities of the United Nations should also be better coordinated at the global, regional and national levels. Stronger efforts should be made by the United Nations system to implement fully the provisions of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and to achieve further progress towards "Delivering as one". On the whole, it is important to encourage flexibility, effectiveness, transparency, accountability and innovation within existing institutional frameworks to promote more effective cooperation and partnership approaches, especially to implement the post-2015 development agenda.

Adopt trade and investment rules that are fair and conducive to sustainable development

150. In a globalized world, economies seek to benefit from dynamic trade and investment opportunities. International trade is overseen by a multilaterally agreed system that seeks to be universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable. At the same time, there are numerous bilateral and regional agreements setting additional rules for trade and international investment.

151. Global negotiations on strengthening international trade rules have been hindered for many years. The World Trade Organization's (WTO) Ninth Ministerial Conference held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, produced a package of agreements to advance the multilateral trade agenda (including a Trade Facilitation Agreement and a series of decisions on agriculture, development and least developed country issues), but remaining disagreements have stalled its formal adoption. Additional issues relevant to sustainable development are included in the mandate of the Doha Round, such as the liberalization of trade in environmental goods and services, and the implementation of duty-free, quota-free market access for all least developed countries. WTO ministers have committed to consider a final work programme to conclude the Doha Round of multilateral negotiations that began in 2001. It is time to address politically sensitive issues, such as agricultural export subsidies, and signal that global cooperation on trade liberalization in the interest of global development is still possible.

152. To further facilitate the participation of the poorest countries in the international trading system, in accordance with their own nationally owned strategies, "aid for trade" and the Enhanced Integrated Framework for assisting

developing countries and least developed countries in particular are of central importance. Trade-related technical assistance, capacity-building and trade facilitation and efforts to mainstream trade into development policies should all be reinforced.

153. In addition, the increased prevalence of global value chains has tightened the link between trade and foreign direct investment. To achieve a better balance between investor rights and the sovereign capacity for recipient States to regulate within areas of public interest, the international community could consider, as appropriate, a further elaboration of standards for investment in areas that directly impact domestic sustainable development outcomes, and ensure that investments do not undermine international human rights standards.

154. In general, the proliferation of bilateral investment treaties and other trade agreements covering investment issues renders the mainstreaming of a sustainable development perspective in investment regimes more difficult. Developing countries find it increasingly difficult to navigate a highly fragmented international investment regime, which also risks curtailing policy space for host countries. Steps should be explored towards a multilateral approach to international investment regimes that more adequately balances investors' preferences with the needs of residents of the countries in which they would operate, with a view to facilitating a more holistic approach in the interest of sustainable development.

Strengthen global financial stability

155. Since the 2007-2008 global financial and economic crisis, the international community has taken important steps to address vulnerabilities in the financial sector through regulatory reform. In these efforts and in any new regulations, regulators need to strike a judicious balance between ensuring the stability of the international financial system and allowing for adequate access to finance. A stable system is essential to support growth and prevent future crises with negative economic and social consequences. However, the unintended consequences of financial regulations may adversely impact the availability of long-term financing, and should be addressed by policymakers.

156. Further progress in completing and implementing the reform agenda is essential for enhancing the stability of the global financial system. Financial regulatory reform operates through international bodies that recommend rules and regulations which individual governments then adopt in national practice. While processes of consultation have been adopted by international regulatory bodies, such as the Financial Stability Board, further steps need to be taken to enhance transparency and the adequate representation of developing country interests in the key international regulatory bodies.

157. It is equally important to strengthen the readiness of the international system to respond to crises. The international community should continue to review the capability of IMF and other international organizations to provide early warning and quickly take countercyclical action and equip them with adequate instruments that would improve the resilience of the global financial system.

158. In particular, a more stable international financial system, and a strengthened global safety net, can reduce the need for countries to stockpile international reserves. Additional research on the appropriate size of reserves, along with

alternative insurance mechanisms, such as those based on regional cooperation, should be pursued.

Strengthen regional cooperation

159. Strengthened regional cooperation can play an important role in mobilizing financial resources for sustainable development. Among other things, effective regional arrangements can provide financing for regional public goods, facilitate trade flows and attract investment into key sectors such as infrastructure. Regional cooperation also provides excellent opportunities for information exchange and peer learning in fiscal, financial and economic affairs. In addition, the recent financial and economic crisis has directed new attention to the potential of regional financial stability mechanisms (such as the Latin American Reserve Fund or the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization) to serve as a first line of defence against contagion from global crises.

Enhance international cooperation on taxes

160. International tax rules and national tax laws have not kept pace with developments in the global economy, such as highly mobile capital and the predominance of multinational enterprises in international trade and finance. Nations devise their own tax systems to meet domestic needs and have traditionally not coordinated with foreign tax authorities. This has created opportunities for multinational enterprises and international investors to evade and avoid taxes by structuring international transactions to take advantage of different national tax rules. Even when Governments cooperate and devise bilateral tax treaties, their terms differ with different partners, allowing firms to exploit the differences to their own advantage (treaty shopping). Multinational enterprises also take advantage of differences in national tax policies by mispricing intra-group transactions (transfer mispricing) and by making use of mismatches in entity and instrument characterization (hybrid mismatch).

161. While each country is responsible for its own tax system, international cooperation on tax policy needs strengthening. The enhancement of international tax cooperation could cover country-based reporting, notification of owners, automatic exchange of tax information, transfer pricing regulations, lists of tax havens and standards for non-economic reporting. G20 leaders have endorsed the OECD Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting and automatic exchange of information. The United Nations, with its universal membership and legitimacy, could be a catalyst for further strengthening international cooperation in this area, working with the G20, OECD, IMF, the World Bank and relevant regional forums. To this end, a participatory and broad-based dialogue on international cooperation in tax matters should be strengthened.

162. Due to insufficient resources and a lack of specialized knowledge, many developing countries are at a disadvantage when dealing with tax evasion and avoidance practices. In this light, capacity development measures could increasingly focus on international taxation issues.

Fight illicit financial flows

163. In addition to policies to counter transfer mispricing based on tax evasion, as discussed above, best use should be made of existing international standards and

instruments in the field of anti-money-laundering (including the Financial Action Task Force and its network of regional bodies), anti-corruption (United Nations Convention against Corruption) and asset recovery (the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative).

164. Tax evasion, money-laundering and corruption are facilitated by jurisdictions with regulatory regimes that allow companies and individuals to effectively hide money. Both domestic actions aimed at minimizing the flow of funds to secrecy jurisdictions and international cooperation to increase financial transparency will be needed. They include exchange of information, country-by-country reporting and publicly available company beneficial ownership registers, effective implementation of the Financial Action Task Force standards and asset recovery.

Strengthen sovereign debt crisis prevention and resolution

165. Sovereign debt crises severely impede nations' efforts to finance sustainable development, with debt crises often leading to a spiral of capital flight, devaluations, rising interest rates and unemployment. Effective debt management to prevent debt crises is recognized as a priority. However, when crises do occur, there is an urgent need to fairly and quickly resolve them. The international community has adopted and repeatedly strengthened a comprehensive framework for resolving sovereign debt crises in a group of heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs). For bilateral official debt, the Paris Club and its Evian approach exist to restructure debt owed to its members. However, globally the landscape for debt has changed: the HIPC initiative is almost completed, and sizeable debt is owed to non-Paris Club countries and the private sector.

166. A survey of recent international debt restructurings has shown that the market-based approach to restructure debt owed to private creditors needs further improvements. Many debt restructurings are considered insufficient and are often delayed, with high costs for the populations of debtor countries. Recent developments with regard to Argentina's holdout creditors have led to a deep concern about the ability of holdout creditors to derail the success of a debt restructuring, both for developed and developing countries.

167. There are two alternative solutions generally proposed for handling sovereign debt restructurings: a market-based contractual approach through provisions in contracts, such as collective action clauses in bond covenants, and a statutory approach akin to national bankruptcy regimes. In 2003, partly in response to the 2002 Argentine default, IMF proposed a Sovereign Debt Restructuring Mechanism, although there was little political support for such a mechanism at the time. Instead, the use of collective action clauses became widespread in emerging market bond issuance. By 2005 almost 100 per cent new international bonds issued included collective action clauses, although a large stock of bonds without collective action clauses remains outstanding. However, some authors have found that the presence of collective action clauses alone may not be sufficient to ensure fair and effective debt restructurings in all cases. The inclusion of aggregation clauses could help make collective action clauses more effective with respect to holdout creditors.

168. Discussions on how to improve the framework for sovereign debt restructuring for countries in debt distress are taking place in various official forums, in policy think tanks and in the private sector. In particular, work is ongoing in the United Nations system, including in IMF, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

of the Secretariat and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. In addition, there are calls for action on an effective and fair sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanism, taking into account existing frameworks and principles, with the broad participation of creditors and debtors, and for the comparable treatment of all creditors. Given the importance of sovereign debt crisis and debt overhangs to financing sustainable development, it is important for the international community to continue ongoing efforts to enhance the existing architecture for sovereign debt restructuring. Furthermore, collaborative efforts to improve the timeliness and coverage of sovereign debt data based on both creditor and debtor reporting systems could lead to more reliable debt sustainability assessments.

Foster harmonized monitoring and accounting systems and a data revolution

169. Strong, relevant and comparable data is the basis for improved global governance and sustainable development follow-up. Yet, current information flows, reporting standards and monitoring mechanisms are overlapping, contradicting, incomplete in coverage and often inaccessible to development actors. In order to improve the quality of statistics, it will be important to reduce the fragmentation of current reporting frameworks and initiatives and increase their harmonization. The international community should agree on suitable monitoring frameworks for the post-2015 development agenda that keep track of sustainable development financing flows from all sources, with transparent and separate reporting for development and climate finance commitments. Efforts are also needed to work towards a harmonization and increasing integration of monitoring and accounting frameworks to consider all financing sources and their interplay at the country level. In addition, existing monitoring and reporting frameworks should be improved to avoid incentivizing the use of instruments that do not support sustainable development objectives.

170. Accordingly, national statistical capabilities should be strengthened. Capacity-building initiatives and exchanges of experiences and practices should support developing countries and least developed countries in particular in tracking, monitoring and evaluating the impact and performance of different types of financing flows. Enhanced national capacities for monitoring and accounting of financing flows, including through the adoption of appropriate standards and reporting at a country-wide level, would also contribute to ensuring mutual accountability and global transparency. The potential of combining active (e.g., reporting) and passive (e.g., websites) transparency mechanisms to ensure disclosure and transparency to stakeholders, constituencies and beneficiaries should be further explored.

171. To enable the sharing of data, for example on blended finance, actors could establish a research data protocol, which would build on existing reporting standards and be used to collect project-related data and make it publicly available.

172. Recent work by the World Bank provides a useful starting point for assessing sustainable development needs and related policy and financing priorities to achieving them, using a model-based diagnostics tool and drawing on a multi-country database. The analysis has been applied to Uganda as a pilot and is being extended to 10 additional countries with diverse characteristics.

Strengthen global partnership to facilitate effective sustainable development cooperation

173. The global partnership for development as set out in Millennium Development Goal 8 and the Monterrey Consensus represents a set of commitments by both developed and developing countries on promoting development. The post-2015 development agenda will have to be underpinned by a renewed and strengthened global partnership for sustainable development, defining a compact of commitments by States Members of the United Nations, while providing space and flexibility for engagement with a wide range of stakeholders. There are global platforms aimed at enhancing the impact and effectiveness of development cooperation, including the Development Cooperation Forum of the United Nations and other existing initiatives (see section VI.C).

174. The effective cooperation for sustainable development, including its financing aspects, requires a global partnership with the meaningful involvement and active participation of developing and developed countries, multilateral and bilateral development and financial institutions, parliaments, local authorities, private sector entities, philanthropic foundations, civil society organizations and other stakeholders. Ongoing efforts to strengthen the global partnership for sustainable development cooperation should take into account relevant United Nations conferences and other initiatives, and be based, inter alia, on the principles of country ownership, focus on results, delivery through inclusive partnerships, transparency and accountability to one another. In this context, the complementary nature of South-South cooperation to North-South cooperation applies. As part of the post-2015 development agenda, the processes for boosting the impact and effectiveness of development cooperation should be continued and enhanced.

VIII. Concluding remarks

175. In the preceding pages the Committee has laid out the conclusions of the work it has jointly carried out over the last 12 months. The Committee trusts that the policy options presented in the present report, and the strategic approach that its work is based upon, will provide a basis for future discussion on financing sustainable development and will inform, together with the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the intergovernmental negotiations for the post-2015 development agenda.

176. The Committee expects that the recommendations and analysis in the present report will stimulate discussions among all stakeholders and inspire new ideas and innovative solutions. Many of the recommendations call for exchanging ideas and sharing experiences between countries and for enhanced international cooperation based on a renewed global partnership for sustainable development. The third international Conference on Financing for Development and its preparatory process will bring together all stakeholders and provide an opportunity for advancing these discussions. The Committee looks forward to progress being made in these areas, in the context of the Addis Ababa Conference and beyond.

Annex

Membership of the Committee per session

First session (28-30 August 2013)

1. André Lohayo Djamba (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
2. Admasu Nebebe (Ethiopia)
3. Karamokoba Camara (Guinea)
4. Ahmed Jehani (Libya)
5. Joseph Enyimu (Uganda)
6. Mansur Muhtar (Nigeria)
7. Lydia Greyling (South Africa)
8. Ji Zou (China)
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11. Aiboshi Koichi (Japan)
12. Amjad Mahmood (Pakistan)
13. Sung Moon Up (Republic of Korea)
14. Khalid Al Khudairy (Saudi Arabia)
15. Emiliya Kraeva (Bulgaria)
16. Tõnis Saar (Estonia)
17. Viktor Zagrekov (Russian Federation)
18. Vladan Zdravkovič (Serbia)
19. František Ružička (Slovakia)
20. Francisco Gaetani (Brazil)
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26. Nathan Dal Bon (Australia)
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28. Anthony Requin (France)
29. Norbert Kloppenburg (Germany)
30. Liz Ditchburn (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Experts nominated by regional groups to serve as replacements for members of the Committee

1. Ali Mansoor (Mauritius)
2. Rajasree Ray (India)
3. Chet Neymour (Bahamas)
4. Saúl Weisleder (Costa Rica)
5. Troy Torrington (Guyana)
6. Jaime Hermida Castillo (Nicaragua)
7. Gastón Lasarte (Uruguay)
8. Antonios Zairis (Greece)
9. Özgür Pehlivan (Turkey)

Second session (2-6 December 2013)

1. André Lohayo Djamba (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
2. Admasu Mebebe (Ethiopia)
3. Karamokoba Camara (Guinea)
4. Ahmed Jehani (Libya)
5. Joseph Enyimu (Uganda)
6. Mansur Muhtar (Nigeria)
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Third session (3-7 March 2014)

1. André Lohayo Djamba (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
2. Admasu Nebebe (Ethiopia)
3. Karamokoba Camara (Guinea)
4. Ahmed Jehani (Libya)
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7. Gastón Lasarte (Uruguay)
8. Antonios Zairis (Greece)
9. Özgür Pehlivan (Turkey)

Fourth session (12-16 May 2014)

1. André Lohayo Djamba (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
2. Admasu Nebebe (Ethiopia)
3. Karamokoba Camara (Guinea)
4. Ahmed Jehani (Libya)

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Fifth session (4-8 August 2014)

1. André Lohayo Djamba (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
2. Admasu Nebebe (Ethiopia)
3. Karamokoba Camara (Guinea)
4. Ahmed Jehani (Libya)
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General Assembly

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Sixty-ninth session
Item 51 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/81 on the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories.

* A/69/150.

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Please recycle

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/81, adopted on 11 December 2013, the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "...
>
> "1. *Reaffirms* that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;
>
> "2. *Demands* that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and that it comply scrupulously with the provisions of the Convention;
>
> "3. *Calls upon* all High Contracting Parties to the Convention, in accordance with article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions and as mentioned in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004, to continue to exert all efforts to ensure respect for its provisions by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;
>
> "4. *Reiterates* the need for speedy implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including at its tenth emergency special session and including resolution ES-10/15, with regard to ensuring respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for the provisions of the Convention;
>
> "5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 9 May 2014, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Government of Israel in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the above-mentioned resolution, that the Government inform him of any steps that it had taken, or envisaged taking, concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of that resolution.

3. No reply had been received from Israel at the time of the preparation of the present report.

4. By a note verbale dated 9 May 2014, sent to all permanent missions of all the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, including Palestine, the Secretary-General drew attention to paragraph 3 of resolution 68/81. The Secretary-General requested, in view of his reporting obligations under that resolution, information regarding any steps that the High Contracting Parties had taken or envisaged taking concerning its implementation.

5. Three replies to the note verbale were received in response to the Secretary-General's requests.

6. On 27 May 2014, the Permanent Mission of Qatar replied to the note verbale. Qatar recalled its support for resolution 68/81, in addition to numerous resolutions

adopted by the League of Arab States, the latest of which was resolution No. 595 of 26 March 2014, adopted at its twenty-fifth ordinary session, on "Developments in the Palestinian cause". Qatar noted that paragraph 15 of that resolution condemns "the Israeli policy of ethnic cleansing practised by Israel in Jerusalem through the withdrawal of residency and the expulsion of residents in order to change its demographic and geographic character". Qatar stated that "it holds the Israeli Government fully responsible for all consequences resulting from this policy and practice". Qatar further called upon the Government of Switzerland to convene a conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention of 1949, in order to look for ways of implementing the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to provide protection for the Palestinian people under occupation".

7. On 6 June 2014, the Permanent Mission of Cuba replied to the note verbale, expressing its full support for resolution 68/81 and affirming the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967. Cuba noted with serious concern that, despite numerous calls by the international community, Israel, as the occupying Power, had failed to cease its illegal practices and policies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In particular, Cuba raised its concerns in relation to continued Israeli settlement activities, including during the peace negotiations, and construction of the wall in the occupied territory; demolitions of Palestinian houses and forcible displacement of Palestinians; human rights violations suffered by Palestinians, including children, detained in Israeli prisons; and excessive use of force by the occupation forces, resulting in deaths and injuries of Palestinians, including children. Cuba reiterated its call for implementation of resolution 68/81 and for Israel to end all its violations of international law. Cuba also condemned Israel's brutal military campaign against the Palestinian people living in Gaza, including the excessive and indiscriminate use of force against Palestinian civilians and the destruction of property, infrastructure and agricultural land in violation of international law. In addition, Cuba expressed the view that Israel had for years been able to act with impunity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, owing in particular to the silence of the Security Council. Cuba reaffirmed its support for the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle for dignity, justice and peace and their inalienable right to self-determination and sovereignty of an independent State of Palestine along pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

8. On 24 June 2014, the Permanent Mission of Colombia responded to the note verbale, noting that it viewed the situation in the Middle East as an integral issue. It therefore advocates for a structured and lasting solution to the situation in the region. Colombia called for the cessation of the use of force, or threat thereof, and the end of terrorism. Colombia further expressed its understanding of the aspiration of the Palestinian people to achieve prompt recognition of the Palestinian State. Colombia noted that it continued to support the objective of a viable Palestinian State, in peaceful coexistence alongside Israel, with defined, internationally recognized, and secure borders, based on the 1967 lines, or with such changes as might be mutually agreed upon by both parties. Colombia noted its belief that negotiation was the only means to achieve a lasting solution, and highlighted that it is unacceptable to use force as a means to obtain territory. Colombia stressed its support for achieving lasting regional peace through consensus and dialogue.